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THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST is supplied regularly to every member of the following Societies:—

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.
 South African Pharmaceutical Association.
 Pharmaceutical Society of Natal.
 Otago Pharmaceutical Association.
 Pharmaceutical Society of Queensland.
 Pharmaceutical Society of South Australia.
 Pharmaceutical Society of Western Australia.
 Tasmanian Pharmaceutical Society.

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POSTCARD COMPETITION.

ON page 354 of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, August 31, there is a sketch of a pharmacy interior. We wish our subscribers, their employés, or members of their families to ponder over it; then write us postcards telling us what they think of it. To the person who sends in prose or verse the most appropriate description of the sketch we shall give a prize of a guinea.

THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY, 1896.

THIS work is now in course of preparation, and the publisher is booking advertisement orders for it. It will have a larger circulation than any previous Diary, and the contents will, we hope, surpass all that has been done before.

Summary.

THIS week beeswax is not a drug (p. 425).

THE Prince of Wales has visited the Johannis Springs (p. 421).

AN Isle of Wight chemist has been fined for selling blue ointment deficient in mercury (p. 425).

THERE has been a sudden rise in the price of opium. We discuss the position of the article (p. 430).

FRENCH physicians appear not to be enthusiastic regarding Maragliano's serum treatment of consumption (p. 420).

THE Holborn Guardians have settled their drug-contract this week, but not without an amusing discussion (p. 418).

SOME practical views in regard to the manufacture of cod-liver-oil emulsion by a French professor are noted on p. 436.

WE give a picture and description of Netley Hospital, and describe in connection therewith the work of the Medical Staff Corps (p. 435).

CARBOLIC ACID poisoning cases are again numerous, and we also report in the English news section some curious cases of poisoning with other drugs (p. 417).

THREE chemists are in trouble—one (an assistant) found guilty of stealing, a second charged with common assault, and a third with indecent assault on a girl of 13 (p. 418).

A CHEMIST'S unqualified assistant at Ayr has been found guilty under the Pharmacy Act of selling poisons, and was mulcted in modified costs without fine. A Glasgow assistant has also been proceeded against (p. 425).

IT would appear that when oil is sent out in drums the seller must be careful how he invoices the article. A case of the kind has been carried before Mr. Commissioner Kerr, who has laid down the law on the subject (p. 425).

WE now conclude our report of the meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association at Denver, and give notes of some of the principal papers read in the Scientific Section. The meeting was a great success (p. 423).

THREE Johannesburg chemists have been fined for selling "Death to Rats." The defence was that the preparation contains so much tartar emetic that the arsenic in it would not be poisonous, because any person who took it would vomit (p. 421).

DR. DANFORD THOMAS has addressed a coroner's jury regarding the restrictions upon the sale of poisons, deprecating, in the case of common articles, further restrictions. On the other hand, a solicitor has urged, before a bench of magistrates, that oxalic acid should be placed in the second part of the poison schedule (p. 416).

AN unregistered druggist in Ireland, who had been fined under the Pharmacy Act for selling poisons, was called upon the other day by a police sergeant who attempted to buy liq. ergotæ and other poisons under the provisions of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act. The shopkeeper declined, whereupon he was summoned for refusing to sell. The case is interesting reading (p. 425).

WHEN the British Association met at Ipswich on Wednesday evening, and the proceedings had commenced, Sir Douglas Galton, the President, was suddenly seized with illness, and was unable to deliver his address, which was read by Sir John Evans; but Sir Douglas was able before the close of the meeting to thank the members for the reception of his address. We refer to the latter on p. 431.

THE proceedings of the Irish Pharmaceutical Council reported in this issue are of interest chiefly on account of a point raised by Mr. Turkington on behalf of the registered druggist whose name the Council wish to remove from the register. The discussion following Mr. Turkington's objection was lively. The approaching election of the Council again brings to the surface the probable retirement of Mr. Hayes, the President. The refusal of the British Pharmaceutical Council to accept the Preliminary examination is to be further considered (p. 422).



English News

The Editor is obliged to correspondents who send local newspapers containing items of interest to the trade. He will be further obliged if such paragraphs be marked in all cases.

Hours of Work in Chemical-factories.

Mr. Harry Samuel, M.P., has given notice that next Session he will introduce a Bill to regulate the hours of men and women in chemical and similar occupations injurious to health.

Bang, Flash, and Panic.

Last week an assistant-master at Eastwood Beard School, Keighley, was engaged in a chemical demonstration before a class of children, when an explosion took place. A mass of flame succeeded the report, the children became panic-stricken, and rushed out of the school. The flames were quickly subdued, and no harm was done.

The Theft from a Pharmacy Post-office.

The lad Arthur Hughes, aged 18, who was in charge at Liverpool for stealing a number of postal letters from the sub-post-office and chemist's shop, 344 Mill Street, in which place he was employed, has been sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment. The charge of stealing medicine was withdrawn, and the mother and brother of the prisoner were discharged with a caution.

An Analyst's Fees.

At the last meeting of Durham City Council the Local Government Board wrote enclosing a letter from Mr. Pattison, the public analyst, stating that his salary as city analyst was 5*l.* 5*s.* per annum, and 1*l.* 1*s.* each for the first 100 analyses, 10*s.* 6*d.* each for the second 100, and 6*s.* for each subsequent one. No complaint had ever been made as to the terms of his agreement; his salary was low enough, and if they would increase his yearly salary he would decrease the charge for his analyses. Councillor Gray asked for an account of what Mr. Pattison had been paid, and stated that he had been paid an enormous sum of money for very little work. Eventually it was decided that the retaining-fee should be 2*l.* 2*s.*, with a fee of 10*s.* 6*d.* for each analysis.

The Council and the Chemist.

Mr. C. B. Shuker, chemist and druggist, Ridgway, Plympton, was the cause of a special meeting of the Parish Council last week. Mr. Shuker has recently acquired some ground in the town, and, after the plans of his new house were approved by the District Council, he proceeded with the building, when some of the Councillors thought he had broken the by-laws. When the Council met some were for taking strong measures; but ultimately it was decided that the chairman and vice-chairman of the Parish Council and of the Works Committee of the District Council, accompanied by the District Council's surveyor, should interview Mr. Shuker, with a view of settling the matter.

"Not Possible to Say that Chlorodyne Contains Morphine."

At an inquest in Westminster regarding the death of an elderly gentleman who was found dead in bed last week with a partly-empty bottle of chlorodyne on a table, Dr. Mackenzie, of Savile Row, said he had made a *post-mortem*, and found that Mr. Ashbury (the deceased) suffered from a weak heart, but he could not say death was accelerated by chlorodyne or any narcotic, but he thought morphia had been taken by him. It was not possible to say that chlorodyne contained morphia, but it was generally accepted that it did. The Coroner: Would an analysis help you in coming to a conclusion? Witness: It would be extremely difficult to say then, as it would be a matter of half-grains.

Nanny's Well.

A chalybeate well at Higher Crossings, Chapel-en-le-Frith, known as "Nanny's Well," has been analysed, and the reports are so favourable it has been suggested that the interests of the town might be materially strengthened by making the fact known far and wide. Accordingly a meeting of the principal inhabitants was held on Thursday evening, August 29, to consider the best means of utilising the discovery. Mr. Boycott, the chairman, stated that it had been suggested that, if the analysis of the water warranted it, steps should be taken to establish a "hydro" in the town; but, as this was a public well, it must remain free for the use of the public for all time. Mr. J. T. Gray, chemist and druggist, read the report of his analysis, and, after a long discussion, the following gentlemen were appointed a committee to take further steps in the matter:—The Rev. J. Given, Dr. Anderson, Dr. Greenhough, Mr. J. B. Boycott, Mr. J. C. Hyde, Mr. S. J. Bramwell, and Mr. J. T. Gray.

Good for Druggists, Bad for Ratepayers.

At last week's meeting of the Liverpool Workhouse Committee Mr. H. Peet drew attention to the greatly increased consumption of "druggists' sundries." He said that for the six months ending March, 1894, 2,164 lbs. of cotton-wool were used; for the same period this year the consumption was 2,912 lbs. Similarly the consumption of lint had increased from 4,500 lbs. to 5,000 lbs., and of flannel from 2,600 yards to 5,000 yards. It was even more extraordinary that the methylated spirit used had increased from 300 to 800 gallons, and that Coleman's wine, which was nothing but good old port with something added, had been drunk to the extent of thirteen and a half dozen, as against eight dozen. He would like to know where it all went to, when the average number of patients was 74 less. Mr. Moss was anxious to know if the inmates could get at the methylated spirit to drink; it was very tasty [? nasty]. He knew a good many who liked it. The Clerk having explained that the matter rested with the doctors and nurses, it was decided to call upon the medical officer and the superintendent nurse for explanation.

A Day at Southend.

On the invitation of Messrs. Burgoyne, Burbidges & Co., of Coleman Street, a representative of the *C. & D.* travelled down to Southend on Saturday last, with their party of about 180, who went out for a day's enjoyment at the favourite watering-place. Marine Park had been engaged for the day, and here shortly after 11 o'clock sports were commenced. These consisted of two flat races, sack race, three-legged race, a veterans' race (which was won by the eldest competitor), 200 yards members' race, consolation race, and the inevitable tug-of-war. All the races were without exception well contested, many of the runners showing a commendable degree of training and resource. The prizes were numerous and valuable, and included two marble clocks presented by Messrs. Farries and Burbidge, a table-lamp by Mr. T. Lakeman, and a pocket-flask by Mr. H. R. Arnold. Dinner was served in the pavilion at 3 P.M., Mr. H. R. Arnold acting as chairman, and Messrs. Spearpoint, Cooper, Harwood, Bew, Craig, Mayall, and Hockaday as stewards. Immediately after dinner Mr. Arnold distributed the prizes. W. H. Keen, starting from scratch in the 120 yards race (58 runners), carried off Mr. F. Farries's marble clock—the first prize. The half-mile race was won by the man who had the longest start, T. Merrill (180 yards) coming in for Mr. Burbidge's marble clock; here Mr. Keen was second, for it would have been foolish of him to win another clock—Mr. C. W. White's Gladstone bag suited him better; and the third prize (a smoker's companion, sent by Mr. A. H. Cox, of Brighton, who gave the second prize in the 120 yards) was taken by W. Goldsworthy. The veteran (J. L. Spearpoint), who beat all his opponents in the veterans' race, got a barometer-clock, presented by Messrs. H. Marks & Co. The entire party were afterwards photographed in the grounds, and before returning to town they had a stroll along the promenade.

Dr. Danford Thomas on Suicide by Poison.

At an inquest held by Dr. Danford Thomas at the Islington Coroner's Court last week (the victim being a woman who had taken oxalic acid), Dr. Thomas explained that the poison was purchased without difficulty, it coming under the

second part of the schedule, so that the chemist had only to label the packet with the name of the poison and his own name and address. A jurymen urged that there should be greater restrictions placed on the sale of poisons, and that the jury should send a recommendation to the Home Office on the subject. The Coroner said that to put greater restrictions on the sale of poisons with the idea of making it more difficult for persons to obtain such, and thus, if possible, to prevent suicides, was one that had been discussed over and over again. They had sent up recommendations owing to the great number of suicides of persons by taking carbolic acid, and also of persons being poisoned by drinking such from ginger-beer bottles, which was purchased at oil-shops, &c., asking that carbolic acid might be placed under the Sale of Poisons Act, but the Privy Council had refused to restrict the sale of an article that was so much in general use as a disinfectant. There were a number of poisons that could be purchased at oil-shops. Take, for instance, spirits of salt, which was largely used, and frequently by persons to commit suicide. The reason that such poisons were not under the Sale of Poisons Act was that they were sold for trade purposes. There were at the present time new poisons of a deadly character which were not in either schedule of the Act. If it was with the idea of preventing suicides that the juror would put greater restrictions on the sale of poisons even by chemists, then he might point out that he did not think that would prevent such. Suicides seemed to be on the increase. If persons were prevented from obtaining poisons by stringent measures being adopted with regard to the sale, then they would adopt other means, for there was the water, hanging, &c., and it was found that when persons were prevented from doing the deed one way they did it another.

Carbolic-acid Poisonings.

Alfred Maton, aged 40, a sweeper to the Marylebone Vestry, was dismissed on Friday last, and went home and committed suicide by swallowing carbolic acid.

Mary Anne Martha Carver, aged 50, the wife of a Battersea Baptist minister, was in the habit of hiding bottles of spirits all over the house. One day last week she mistook a bottle of carbolic acid for one of these, and died the same night from carbolic-acid poisoning.

Thomas Dale (22), a Stafford man, on Sunday, September 1, drank a quantity of disinfectant carbolic acid. He was seen in the street staggering and vomiting, and was taken into a public-house, where Dr. Hunt attended him until his death shortly after.

Jane Leggitt (23), who kept house for her uncle, at Old Whittington, on Monday evening drank a large quantity of carbolic acid. Dr. A. M. Palmer was quickly in attendance but the woman became unconscious, and when our reporter wrote there was not the slightest hopes for her recovery.

Thomas Richards Nash, aged 15 years, of 86 Stowe Road, Shepherd's Bush, committed suicide by taking carbolic acid last week. A shop boy chum of his stated at the inquest on Monday that he saw Nash on Wednesday evening walking in a strange manner, and asked what was the matter. He said he had taken some carbolic acid because his father had been giving him a good hiding and grumbling at him. The witness put his fingers down his throat and made him sick, and then, assisted by a telegraph-boy, carried him home. By the doctor's orders he was removed to the West London Hospital. Police-constable Honeywell, Coroner's officer, said the boy had a good character, but in his box he found a number of penny books of the sensational kind. Dr. John George Pardoe, house physician at the West London Hospital, said death took place on Friday from collapse from carbolic-acid poison. [The daily papers have freely commented upon this case, urging restriction of the sale of "penny dreadfuls."]

Drug-contracts.

The Strood (Kent) Board of Guardians have accepted the following tenders:—Mr. S. J. Hart: Sanitas soap, 23s. per cwt.; sulphur, 6s. 3d. per cwt.; crushed linseed, 12s. 6d. per cwt. Mr. A. B. Acworth: Sanitas fluid, 8s. 3d. per dozen pint bottles.

The Holborn Board of Guardians met on Wednesday (Mr. Benjamin Garrod presiding) to determine the contractors

for supplies to the various establishments of the Union for the next six and twelve months. There were three tenders for drugs—viz., Messrs. Hodgkinson, Prestons & King, Bishopsgate Street, Messrs. A. S. Hill & Son, and Baiss Brothers. The first-mentioned offered to supply at 20 per cent. off schedule prices; the second, 25 per cent. off; and the third, 28 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. off. Mr. Langley moved that Messrs. Hill get the contract, because they had served the Union well for several years. Dr. Hunter seconded Mr. Howes, J.P., moved that Baiss Brothers get it, because their terms were most advantageous to the ratepayers. Dr. Hunter remarked that he had seconded Messrs. Hill because the Guardians had had no complaints as to the quality of the drugs whilst Messrs. Hill had served them, and if the Guardians took the percentage they would find that there was only about 25% difference on the year. They had in Messrs. Hill a firm upon whom they could thoroughly rely. Mr. Howes: And very likely what Dr. Hunter has said about Messrs. Hill will apply to Baiss Brothers. The Clerk: I have never heard anything said against Baiss Brothers. Mr. Howes: And I dare say they can serve us as well as Messrs. Hill. Mr. Kelly: We must have good drugs. Mr. Miller: As well as good beer. (Laughter.) Mr. Howes: I protest against the ratepayers' money being thrown away. If Baiss is as good as Hill, why throw away 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.? Mr. Langley: You have to-day listened to the recommendations of an expert on tea and an expert on leather; and when Dr. Hunter, who is an expert in drugs, recommends a certain firm, you want to go away from it. Mr. Howes: Dr. Hunter says Messrs. Hill are a respectable firm; and so no doubt are Baiss Brothers. He doesn't say that Hills sell better drugs than Baiss. Mr. Munt: I would be the last to object to a reduction in the expenditure of the Union, but I think in the matter of drugs it is of such importance that the best should be obtained that I would take the doctor's recommendation without question. A little matter of percentage such as this ought not to influence us at all. We know that this firm of Hill & Son are of good repute, who have served us well, and I think we should be wise in allowing them to continue. Mr. Howes wanted the matter sent back to the committee, but Mr. Garrity hoped this would not be the case. It was quite true that drugs were important, and they should give the poor the best that could be got. Drugs were very curious matters, and if they were to be killed at all let it be with good drugs. (Laughter.) The Chairman then put the two firms nominated to the meeting, with the following result:—Baiss Brothers, 2; Messrs. Hill & Son, 11. The last-mentioned consequently got the contract.

Chemists and Licences.

The following licences for the sale of medicated wines have been granted:—Mr. Walter Frederick Goodwin, chemist and druggist, 20 Cornwall Street, Plymouth; Mr. Joseph Jones, chemist and druggist, 322 Manchester Road, Great Lever.

Mr. Thos. Hartley, St. Luke's Pharmacy, Southport, has obtained an "off" licence for the sale of wines and spirits by wholesale or retail.

Mr. William Highley, chemist, Rochdale, has been granted a wine-licence by the local Magistrates—not refused one, as stated last week; indeed, the Chairman of the Bench added a special compliment to Mr. Highley in announcing the decision.

At Margate Licensing Sessions on Thursday, Mr. Victor John Woods, 16 Cecil Square, Margate, applied for a licence to sell wine to be consumed off the premises, and stated that he only desired to sell medicated wines. Mr. E. C. Rawlings, solicitor, opposed on behalf of a clergyman and other persons, and submitted that there was no necessity for increasing the number of this kind of licence. Mr. Walter Hill, on behalf of the applicant, said the Magistrates had no discretion in the matter. Mr. Rawlings said the Bench had as much discretion to refuse these licences as they had any other. Mr. Charles W. Bobby, 49 High Street, Margate, Mr. James Hewlett, 26 Ethelbert Road, Margate, and Mr. Philip Holmes, 39 High Street, Margate, made similar applications. Mr. Rawlings protested against four such licences being granted at once, and urged that, if granted, the applicants should be restricted to the sale of medicated wines only. The whole of the applications were granted.

Lively interest was manifested on Friday at Wigton

before Sir Wilfrid Lawson and other Magistrates, in the application of Mr. W. Spark, chemist and druggist, Aspatia, for a licence for the sale of wine and spirits. It was stated, in support of the application, that there was not another licence of the same sort in Aspatia, and that anyone in time of sickness wanting anything had to go to a public-house. Mr. Spark said he was a chemist carrying on business at Aspatia and Maryport. His application was for an off-licence. He had taken out a spirit licence. Mr. Crookes said there were half-a-dozen petitions against the application, signed by 729 inhabitants. If the licence were granted Mr. Spark would be entitled to sell beer. The applicant said he would withdraw the notice with regard to this, as he did not want to sell beer. Mr. Crookes pointed out that there would be facilities for the clandestine sale of wines and spirits. Mr. Spark having submitted testimonials of character, the Bench granted the application.

Parcel-post Insurance.

A Parliamentary paper just published gives the terms of the convention recently signed in Paris respecting the insurance of postal parcels between England and France. Parcels insured up to the amount of 500*fr.*, or 20*l.*, may, by the terms of the convention, be sent between the two countries on payment of an insurance fee at the rate of 20*c.* for each 300*fr.* To the postal administration of Great Britain is reserved the power of levying on the insured parcels despatched from the United Kingdom a territorial insurance surtax of 5*c.* for each 300*fr.* and a fixed registration fee of 25*c.* per parcel.

An Awkward Customer.

On Thursday evening last week Mrs. Charlotte Willoughby (28), a lady residing at the Cedars, Sunbury, who had taken rather more brandy-and-soda than was good for her, called at the shop of Mr. C. S. Miller, chemist, Hampton Wick, for a draught, at the same time wanting to lie down on the floor of the shop. Mr. Miller asked her to leave, but she refused, and a policeman had to be called. She was charged at Sunbury on Monday with being drunk and disorderly, and was remanded.

Some Peculiar Poisoning-cases.

A sea-captain was found dead in a room at Wapping last week. He had cut a slice off a ball of opium and swallowed it. Where he got the opium did not transpire at the inquest.

Mrs. Elizabeth Batsford, a young wife of Somers Town, who was tired of life, took some solution of atropine to end it, but the treatment that Dr. Horford subjected her to at the North-West London Hospital prevented a further journey than to Marylebone Police Court.

A medical practitioner at Dorchester reports that six cases of nicotine-poisoning have occurred there, the sufferers, it appears, having eaten grapes taken from a vine on which pure nicotine had been used for fumigation purposes. Though very alarming, none of the cases have ended fatally.

Alice Elizabeth Mills (17), a servant, thought arnica would be good for the headache which she had, for the surest way of getting rid of the headache was to die, and tincture of arnica was the philtre with which she meant to woo death. But he came not—only a cold-hearted policeman, who took Alice to the Lambeth Police Court, and there the Magistrate gave her some fatherly advice.

Sarah Cotton, a Stepney woman, was tired of life because her husband had left her, and last week she swallowed a quantity of sulphate of zinc. There is nothing pharmaceutically remarkable about this, but there is in the sequel. The first thing the doctor did when he came was to administer an emetic! This is not the first time we have heard of zinc sulphate behaving in such an unnatural way. We wonder if its emetic property is a traditional allegation or not. We have only seen it given as an emetic once, and the prescriber took the precaution to mix a scruple of powdered ipecac. along with it.

At West Bromwich, on Saturday, a child of four years, whose parents reside at West Smethwick, died after drinking a quantity of eye-lotion. At the inquest, held on Monday, the Coroner asked for the bottle which had con-

tained the lotion, and Police-constable Heatherly said he had applied to the District Hospital, where the child was taken, for the bottle, but the house surgeon refused to give it him. The lotion had been supplied by the hospital. The mother said the bottle was labelled "Poison." The Coroner said it was a most unheard-of thing that the doctor at the hospital should refuse to give up the bottle. He should write to the Governors concerning it, and adjourned the inquest for a fortnight for a *post-mortem* examination. He instructed Police-constable Heatherly to go to the hospital and demand the bottle in the Coroner's name, and if it was refused he would issue a warrant.

A Growing Practice.

At the Surrey Quarter Sessions, Guildford, last week, two would-be suicides were charged, oxalic acid having been their poison. Mr. L. J. M. de Michele, who prosecuted one of them—a policeman—referred to the practice of taking irritant acids not in the list of poisons for which chemists had to obtain the signatures of purchasers, was growing, and it obtained in the army, the purpose of the men being to get themselves discharged from the service. The case having been decided by the prisoner being bound over, a juror referred to the two cases of attempted suicide, and asked whether any recommendation of the jury would assist in stopping the free sale of the acid. Mr. Michele said it was one of the poisons which was scheduled, but it was not in the list of those poisons which chemists could not sell without a written signature of the purchaser. The Juror: The jury think that should be done. The Chairman said no doubt some attention would be given to that remark.

Failed at the Chemist's, and Tried Lipton's.

Burglars have been very active at Crouch End, in the North of London, lately. Some fine new shops have recently been erected on Topsfield Parade, at the foot of the Broadway, and one of them is occupied by Mr. Frank W. Winpenny, chemist and druggist. Last Sunday week a party of burglars commenced operations on Mr. Winpenny's front door, but the jemmy was useless, and they retired to the back, where they managed to get a small boy into Mr. Lipton's establishment.

Suicide with a Sleeping-draught.

At the Liverpool Coroner's Court, on Wednesday, before Mr. Gibson, deputy coroner, an inquest was held touching the death of John Charles Brooke Jones, aged 36 years, described as a metal-broker, but who has not been in business for nine years. He suffered from insomnia, and was in the habit of taking a mixture of chloral, bromide of potassium and syrup of orange to enable him to sleep. On Monday night, while staying at a restaurant, 58 White-chapel, he had some of the medicine, and in the morning was found lying on the floor dead. Dr. Macpherson attributed death to the medicine, which lowered the temperature of the body, acting on a weak heart, and the deceased lying on the floor in a naked state; but the jury returned a verdict of suicide whilst in a state of unsound mind.

Chemists in Trouble.

At the Southwark Police Court, on Tuesday, Thomas Jardine (42), 45 Fernlea Road, Balham, described as a manufacturing chemist and an ex-missionary, was charged with assaulting Edward Pollard by pushing him down in the Waterloo Road. It appeared from the evidence of a police-constable that the prosecutor had an injured hip and a badly-cut hand, and was unable to attend. The defendant's solicitor stated that he had a full and complete answer to the charge. The police-court missionary said the prisoner was a very respectable man, and eventually the Magistrate remanded him on his own bail.

At the Westminster Police Court, on Tuesday, Hugh Frederick Soutar, described as a chemist's assistant, employed in the drug-department of Harrod's Stores, was charged with stealing goods to the value of 1*l.* The evidence showed that the goods stolen consisted of a scent-case, chest-protectors, and other sundries, and they were found at the prisoner's lodgings in Chelsea. The prisoner pleaded guilty, and Mr. Langton, who appeared on his behalf, stated that the goods were taken two and a half

years ago, when he was in receipt of 15s. per week only. Mr. De Rutzen inflicted a fine of 5*l*. or, in default, twenty-one days' imprisonment with hard labour.

At the Isle of Wight Petty Sessions, on Saturday last, an aged and respectably dressed man named Samuel Furnston, who said he formerly carried on business for many years as a chemist at High Wycombe, was charged with indecently assaulting an Italian music-girl, named Maria Civita Panetta, aged 13 years. The prosecutrix, who gave evidence in Italian, described the assault, and was severely cross-examined. She stated that after the assault some men passed by, and told her to tell a policeman, or else tell her mother. The defendant did not accuse her of stealing his watch. She did not have the watch on her at the time, but said if she found it she would give it to the police. She went back to the place and found the watch, although she did not go there for the purpose of finding it. George Hawksford, a labourer, stated that on the evening of August 27, he was on a cliff, when he saw defendant and an Italian girl. They both sat under a hedge, but before doing so the defendant put up his umbrella. Witness detailed a conversation he alleged he heard between the defendant and the girl. Walter Coleman also gave evidence.

Inspector Ayres deposed to having made inquiries in the case. He saw the girl at Ventnor on September 3, and got the watch from her. It bore the name of "S. C. Furnston, chemist, Wycombe."

The defendant stated that the charge completely unnerved him. For thirty-five years he carried on business at High Wycombe, and had the most undeniable character from both rich and poor. The charge against him was utterly false. The girl sat down near him, and after taking his watch made off. He flatly denied that he took any liberties with her, and, in fact, he never thought of such a thing.

Mr. Marsh, on behalf of the defendant, made an earnest appeal to the Bench to say that the charge had not been proved, and he urged that the evidence was of such a contradictory nature as would justify them in dismissing the charge altogether.

The Chairman said the Bench could not take the responsibility of a case of such gravity, and the matter would have to be threshed out before a jury. The defendant was, therefore, committed for trial, bail being allowed, himself in 100*l*., and two sureties of 50*l*. each.

Lottery Tickets with Tea.

At Totnes, on Monday, George Lethbridge, sole West and South of England agent for the Hundred Guinea Tea Association, Wormwood Street, London, was summoned for selling a lottery-ticket with a packet of tea. It appeared from the evidence that the association gave away with each pound of tea a ticket entitling the purchaser to participate in a drawing for a 100-guinea prize when 25,000 lbs. have been sold. An Exeter policeman got two of them, and upon this purchase the prosecution was based. Defendant stated that the sale of the tea had been carried on in London under the eyes of the police for four years. The Bench pointed out that the defendant was liable to a fine of 50*l*., but he was a poor man, and, perhaps, acted in ignorance of the law. He was fined 1*l*.

A Business on Ramsgate Sands.

Alfred Gold, hawker, Ramsgate, who was committed by Mr. Commissioner Kerr in respect to a debt due to Messrs. Hodgkinson, Prestons & King, as reported in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST last week, had a receiving order in bankruptcy granted to him on his own petition in the London Bankruptcy Court last week. The liabilities are roughly estimated at 200*l*., and there are no assets.

MANUFACTURE OF EAU DE COLOGNE IN INDIA.—The first stage of an interesting case has just been heard at Mazgaon Police Court, Bombay, where two natives were charged with manufacturing Eau de Cologne without a licence from the collector of abkari, in a factory at Khetwadi, and with using a false trade-mark. An abkari inspector deposed to visiting the accused's premises, and finding the men in the act of labelling 12 dozen and 4 bottles of so-called Eau de Cologne; while on the premises were implements and ingredients for the manufacture of spirits, which, with the aid of the police, were seized.



Irish News

The Editor is obliged to correspondents who send local newspapers containing items of interest to the trade. He will be further obliged if such paragraphs be marked in all cases.

Is it a Joke?

It was stated last week in Dublin, at a meeting of the Irish Industrial League, that a company was being formed for the production of medicated peat-litter, disinfecting-powder, &c. Sufficient bog was in Ireland to keep this new industry going for all time.

Drug-contracts

Tenders for drugs and medicines are invited by the following Boards of Guardians on or before the dates appended to each:—Balrothery Union and six dispensaries (September 18), Carrick-on-Shannon Workhouse (September 19), Dingle Union and four dispensary districts (September 20), Enniskillen Union and a number of neighbouring dispensaries (September 24), Irvinestown Union and four dispensaries (September 18), Kells Union and outlying districts (September 21), Limerick Union and thirteen dispensaries (September 18), Roscommon Union and five dispensaries (September 21), Waterford Union (September 18). The contracts for the greater part include the supply of surgical and medical appliances, and each appointment is for one year certain. The contractors must provide security for the due performance of the contracts, deliver consignments free of cartage, and remove empties at their own expense; multiple copies of tenders to be furnished, and the goods as far as possible to be of Irish manufacture.

Dublin Assistants' Association.

A committee meeting was held at the X*L* Café, Dublin, on September 9, Mr. J. B. Alister, President, in the chair. The first business on the programme had reference to a *contratempo* with the proprietor of the café regarding the meeting, which ought to have been held last Friday. This had been smoothed over, however, and the meeting was assured that as the result of it the members would be more closely united. The Chairman then explained that 50 per cent. of the members had paid their subscription, and when Mr. Payne returned from his holiday they expected to get more. Mr. MacCarthy reported that certain premises in Great Brunswick Street at a moderate rent would suit them, and, after some discussion, it was agreed to consider the matter further at the next meeting. The committee then appointed an official reporter, and, after some remarks regarding interviewing the employers with a view of their becoming honorary vice-presidents of the Association, and the election of honorary members (the name of Sir George B. Owens being mentioned among the latter), it was resolved to have two circulars drawn up for submission to the next meeting—one inviting employers to become members of the Association, and the other soliciting the wholesale firms in Ireland and England to subscribe to the funds. Mr. Hardy thought that would result in misrepresentation from those opposed to the prosperity of the Association. Mr. Alister thought that Mr. Hardy was unnecessarily apprehensive. The trade Press had effectually dispelled all doubts as to their friendly relations with the employers, and he was sure there was not one of the latter who on reading the rules would not wish the Society good luck and prosperity. The question of obtaining a reprint of the rules in booklet form arose, and it was the unanimous wish of the committee to leave over the revision of the rules for the present. This was all the business of public importance.

LARGE quantities of fullers' earth (washing alkali) are found near the port of Hodeidah, on the Red Sea. The substance is taken by steamers as ballast for a very trifling consideration, and sold in India at a great profit.



Scotch News

The Editor is obliged to correspondents who send local newspapers containing items of interest to the trade. He will be further obliged if such paragraphs be marked in all cases.

The Wages of Scotch Shale-miners.

Last week the Scottish Mineral Oil Trade Association, at a private meeting held in Glasgow, unanimously agreed to refuse to grant the demand of the shale-miners for an advance of 1s per day. The masters contended that, considering the position of the oil-industry, their miners were paid higher than ever.

The Pharmacy Act Cases.

Mr. Hill, the Pharmaceutical Society's Assistant-Secretary, has his hands very full just now with approaching examinations and law cases; but the latter do not pay at all. The Ayr assistant got off without a fine, and the expenses awarded will scarcely pay for railway fares.

Business Changes.

Mr. James Bisset, chemist, Burntisland, has started the manufacture of aerated waters.

The partnership of Thomas Young & Son, chemists and druggists, of Kilmarnock, has been dissolved. Mr. Thomas Young retires from the business, which will be carried on henceforth by Mr. Wm. Fulton Young, the other partner in the old firm.

No Change.

The surviving partners of the late Mr. John Müller, of Messrs. John Müller & Co., chemical-manufacturers, Aberdeen, announce that the business will be carried on by them as heretofore.

French News.

(From our Paris Correspondent.)

FATAL BURSTING OF A SODA-WATER SYPHON.—A man named Honore was so seriously injured in a Paris restaurant through the bursting of an aerated-water syphon that he has since died from his wounds.

A QUESTION OF TRADE-MARK.—The Pharmacie Centrale de France publish in their *Bulletin Commercial* the reports of two lawsuits they have found it necessary to undertake recently with a view to protecting the trade-mark of a preparation sold by them under the name of "Neufaline" for removing spots and stains. They were successful in each suit, and obtained damages from the defendants.

ARTIFICIAL ICE.—It appears from a statement made by an official of the Paris Municipal Laboratory that the ice used for drinking-purposes in the city has much improved of late years. This is due to the fact that natural ice has been to a very great extent replaced by that made artificially in the leading cafés and restaurants. Inspectors make continual visits at all the eating and drinking establishments, and the samples taken are handed over to a chemist for analysis. The leading artificial-ice manufacturers are found to use sterilised water.

LAST WEEK'S BOMB.—The attempted outrage at Rothschild's Bank last week has naturally aroused some interest amongst chemists in respect to the composition of the bomb. It appears to have been roughly made, and M. Girard, the expert chemist, describes the explosive matter as a "chlorated powder with a Roman candle intended to serve as a fuse." It seems unlikely that the bomb would have occasioned much damage even if it had exploded. It is evident that the same skill has not been used in its preparation as in former

outrages of a similar kind, and the anarchist who threw it seems almost to have laid his plans carefully to secure arrest. The Van Houten cocoa-tin used as a receptacle has proved an excellent advertisement for that preparation.

ONE OF THE INVENTORS OF THE LUCIFER MATCH.—A French journal announces the death of the alleged inventor of the lucifer match, a poor country doctor named Sauria, at St. Lothain in the Department of the Jura, at the age of 84. It is alleged that in 1831, Sauria, when a pupil at the College of Dole, had the idea of making matches with chlorate of potash, phosphorus, and sulphur, but he was unable to patent his discovery for want of means. He mentioned the matter to M. Nicolet, professor of physics at his college, and that gentleman on visiting Germany, shortly afterwards, delivered several lectures about his pupil's discovery. The Germans are alleged to have obtained the formula in this way, and manufactured the matches, which were then imported to France, and called "Allemandes." Ten years ago, Sauria, being then old and poor, petitioned the President of the Republic, with a result that a tobacco-shop was given to him. This, says our contemporary, was all the country could do for a man who benefited the nation to the extent of 300,000,000f. a year by his invention.

THE MARAGLIANO TREATMENT.—The Paris edition of the *New York Herald* is not enamoured of Maragliano's serum treatment of tuberculosis, and backs up its own opinions with those of "a widely-known physician," who, in the course of an interview, said, "Under the false cloak of novelty M. Maragliano has just read before the Congress of Internal Medicine at Bordeaux a paper which he has already communicated to the British Medical Association, and which, it seems, was published by the *Berliner Klinische Wochenschrift* on the morning of the day on which M. Maragliano read it at Bordeaux!" That is sufficient in itself to condemn the method of cure, but the well-known physician went on to say that "before placing faith in Maragliano's injections we must bear in mind the similar researches that have been made by various savants and have failed, and the promises held forth concerning the serum treatment of so many diseases that have fallen so far short of their authors' expectations. Before definitely believing in this cure of tuberculosis, we shall require many more peremptory proofs. But the most reprehensible part of the affair, which really ought not to be tolerated again, is that a savant, no matter how distinguished or eminent, should have the right to publish results without at the same time giving the process whereby they were obtained. It is impossible to have any scientific verification if, when recoveries, or, at any rate, serious improvements, are obtained, the secret of the method is deliberately omitted. This is not the first time that a discovery has been hidden under a bushel. This custom was originated on the other side of the Rhine, where Koch kept for a long time secret the means of making plaques for cultures on solid media." All of which shows admirably the temper of French physicians towards their Italian confrères.

Foreign and Colonial News.

REDUCING THE PRICE OF CALCIUM CARBIDE.—A German aluminium company announces that, in consequence of improvements in their manufacture, calcium carbide can now be supplied in quantities of not less than one ton at 20l. 5s. 7d. per ton.

SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE-MARKS.—The following trade-marks have been applied for by English firms:—In Cape Colony: "Bassara," for mineral waters (Duckworth & Co.), and "Arab's," for veterinary medicines (Reade Brothers, Wolverhampton). In Natal and the South African Republic: "Hits the Nail on the Head" and "Exaino," for a medicine (H. D. Brandreth, Bikenhead).

THE GERMAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY'S MEETING.—The German Chemical Society's eighteenth annual meeting will be held at Kiel on September 20 and 21. The bill for the suppression of unfair competition, which is creating so much interest in German commercial circles, is to be discussed, and the result of the circular of inquiry sent round to the

members concerning the action of the commercial treaties is to be announced.

ADVANCE IN THE PRICE OF GERMAN BEESWAX.—Experiments in the German army workshops have shown the superiority of natural wax of the heather-bees over the wax produced by the system of artificial honeycombs in use in many parts of Germany. The military authorities are said to have decided, on that account, henceforth to use only natural wax, and the prices of that commodity, which is chiefly produced in the Lüneburg district of Northern Germany, are rapidly advancing in consequence.

THE SALE OF HONEY IN GERMANY.—The President of the German Agricultural Society, Pastor Petersen, of Edcllack, in Holstein, has addressed a memorandum to the Imperial Chancellor on behalf of his Society, in which he complains of the increasing trade in adulterated and spurious honey, often, it is alleged, of a character to injure the health of the consumers, and prays that it may be made punishable to offer such goods for sale as "honey." The authorities whom the Imperial Chancellor consulted on this question have decided not to agree to the request in the memorial for the present, but to instruct the police to apply more vigorously than heretofore the existing law on food-adulteration.

THE PRINCE OF WALES VISITS THE JOHANNIS SPRING.—On Tuesday of last week the Prince of Wales, attended by General Stanley Clarke, joined a party of twelve from Homburg to Zollhaus, for the purpose of visiting the Johannis Spring and of inspecting the works connected with the pumping and bottling of this popular water. A special saloon train left Homburg at 12.45 P.M., and stopped at Wiesbaden in order that Prince Albert of Schleswig-Holstein might join the party. Another halt was made at Schwalbach, when the Grand Duke Michael of Russia, the Prince Nicholas of Nassau, and the Countess Adda Merenberg entered the train. At Zollhaus Captain Kennedy and Mr. Gordon, the local managers, received the visitors, and explained the processes employed in the works. The party dined on the terrace at Zollhaus, and returned to Homburg at 10.30.

SINGULAR POISONING CASE IN ITALY.—Some months ago an assistant in a pharmacy in Milan supplied a customer, at the latter's request for a tape-worm remedy, with 10 grammes of what was believed to be *extr. filicis ath.* The patient took part of the medicine, was seized with symptoms of vomiting and died after four days. Analysis of the residual dose showed the presence of conium, and the chemist's assistant was prosecuted. Six months after the patient's death his body was exhumed, but not a trace of conium could be found in it. At the same time the residual dose (0.02 gramme) of the medicine was again analysed, but no conium was discovered on this occasion. Nevertheless, the Court, on the strength of the first analysis, condemned the chemist's assistant to a fine of 202*l.* and ordered the owner of the pharmacy to pay compensation to the relatives of the victim.

TAPPING NIAGARA.—There was a great celebration at Niagara Falls the other week, on the occasion of the first delivery of electric power to the aluminium-works of the Pittsburgh Reduction Company from the power-house of the company, which has tapped the Niagara river about $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile above the Horseshoe Falls and is now ready to deliver it as motive-power to factories. It is hoped that the company will be able to deliver 100,000 horse-power taken from the Falls not only to factories in the neighbourhood of the power-house, but, by electrical transmission, to factories in Buffalo and Albany, and eventually to convey it by underground wires as far east as New York city and as far west as Chicago. The question is whether this can be done at a cost to compete with coal. The Niagara Falls Power Company has already spent over \$3,000,000 on its plant and concessions.

A BULGARIAN CARLSBAD SPRING.—A mineral-water spring has recently been discovered near the village of Meritschleri, near the Maritza River, in Bulgaria. Analysis of the water has shown it to bear a close resemblance to that of Carlsbad, but to be slightly weaker in all its constituents. The total proportion of salts in the water is 4.84 per cent., mainly sodium sulphate, sodium chloride, and sodium bicarbonate, but no exact quantities of any are

given. The temperature of the water is 23° C. At present the spring is badly sanded up, and somewhat contaminated with river-water, but the Bulgarian Government are going to put it in order, and appear to entertain hopes that the water is destined to become a serious competitor to Carlsbad. Remains of an old Roman bath near the spring show that the water had been in esteem in the early centuries of our era, but the existence of the spring has since been lost sight of. Medical experiments are about to be made with 1,000 bottles of the water, which are being distributed to hospitals throughout Bulgaria.

JUAN FERNANDEZ SANDALWOOD.—The existence of a true sandalwood in the small island of Juan Fernandez, in the Southern Pacific, has recently been proved by Mr. Söhrens, who has forwarded to Kew Gardens excellent dried specimens of this interesting plant (*Santalum fernandezianum*) collected by himself. It is intended to give a figure and some further particulars of it in an early number of Hooker's "Icones Plantarum." The wood is not likely to become commercially valuable, for Mr. Söhrens states that after many years' search, only one live tree of it has been found in the island, which was in flower in the middle of April. The height of the tree is about 8 metres, with a circumference of 1.5 metre at 0.5 metre from the ground.

THE ANTWERP IVORY-MARKET.—Since Belgium, or rather "Leopold & Cie.," undertook to exploit the Congo State for commercial purposes, under pretence of civilising it, Antwerp has become one of the three great ivory-markets of the world. The two others, London and Liverpool, have no reason to be particularly well disposed to their new rival, for much of the Antwerp trade was formerly done in England, although part of the ivory now sold in the Belgian city would probably have remained hidden under ground or below water in Central Africa had it not been brought to light by the Belgian freebooters who are scouring the country. The Antwerp ivory-market dates from about 1833. From that year until 1890 an annual public ivory-sale was held in the city. Since then there have been quarterly sales, which are visited by merchants from many European countries. The Niger Company now sells its ivory at Antwerp, which has acquired about two-thirds of the West African ivory business, and a good deal of the "soft" ivory trade from Zanzibar, which used to be transacted entirely *via* London. It is said that there seems to be no reason to fear the exhaustion of the ivory supply, for the yill of centuries is still in the hands of natives who know where it is hidden, and, adds the report from which we quote, "It is estimated that there are also about 80,000 elephants still living" (*vie!*).

TRANSVAAL CHEMISTS AND THE POISONS ACT.—The Transvaal authorities continue their crusade against chemists for contravening the provisions of the Poisons Act of the Republic. Mr. Robert Batters, a prominent Johannesburg pharmacist, who has taken a considerable part in the formation of the Transvaal Pharmaceutical Society, and Messrs. Alex. Rennie and Wm. Charles Hyland, also local pharmacists, appeared before the Magistrate of their town on August 8, charged, on two counts each, with having sold "Death to Rats" to a person "not possessing a permit to buy the same." Defendants pleaded "not guilty." The same informers who, on previous occasions had purchased poison from chemists on behalf of the authorities, again gave evidence, and the sale of the substance was not, in fact, denied by the defendants, whose plea was that the preparation contained so large an admixture of tartar emetic (30 to 40 per cent.) to its bulk of 60 or 70 per cent. of arsenic as to deprive it from absolute danger to human life. Mr. Jas. H. Dinwoody, an analytical chemist possessing British and South African qualifications, was Mr. Butter's chief witness. He stated that if anyone swallowed a teaspoonful of the "Death to Rats" there would be no effect for ten minutes owing to the presence of tartar emetic. Even then the patient need not die if a medical man were in attendance. The difference between a man and a rat was that rats and mice could not vomit. "Death to Rats" was the most harmless kind of poison sold by chemists, but witness, of course, would not undertake to take a spoonful of the stuff himself. The ingenious defence did not prevail with the Magistrate, however, and each of the defendants was fined the minimum penalty of 5*l.* on each count.

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

COUNCIL MEETING.

THE Council met on Wednesday, September 4, at 67 Lower Mount Street, Dublin. Mr. Wm. Hayes (President) occupied the chair, and the other members present were:—Messrs. George D. Beggs (Vice-President), G. H. Grindley, W. F. Wells, Samuel Turkington, Charles Evans, R. J. Downes, Professor Tichborne, LL.D., Henry Conyngham, J. I. Bernard, and Robert Simpson.

AN OBJECTION TO THE MINUTES.

The REGISTRAR (Mr. A. T. Ferrall) having read the minutes of last meeting, Mr. TURKINGTON objected to their adoption owing to a passage dealing with the expunging of the name of a certain druggist from the register.

Mr. WELLS said Mr. Turkington could not raise that question on the minutes. The only question now before them was whether the minutes were correct or not.

Mr. TURKINGTON: If the minutes are adopted there is no use in my saying anything.

The PRESIDENT: If they are inaccurate you can object to them.

Mr. TURKINGTON: It has been said you acted illegally in passing such a resolution without its being on the agenda-paper, and on that ground I object to the minutes being signed.

The PRESIDENT: The minutes are the proceedings on the last day of meeting.

Mr. TURKINGTON: We hold the proceedings are illegal, and on that account we object to the minutes being adopted.

Mr. WELLS: You can only say, Are these minutes an accurate report of the meeting?

Mr. TURKINGTON: They are not an accurate report according to what was on the agenda-paper.

The minutes were then signed.

INDIGNATION IN THE NORTH.

Mr. TURKINGTON said this action of the Council had caused widespread indignation amongst the druggists of the north of Ireland. The man whose name was expunged was an old druggist with a family to support, who had already been sufficiently punished without resorting to so extreme a measure as taking his name off the register. Any outsider might come into the shop of a registered druggist and buy poisons, and if it was not sold according to the letter of the law, or if a medical prescription was compounded by an unqualified assistant or an apprentice, the outsider could send the case forward to the Lord Lieutenant without troubling the Council. It put the pharmaceutical chemists, as well as the druggists, in a very unfair position. From the manner in which their inspectors—who were very oily-tongued when they wanted to get a case—acted, one could scarcely get over them. He had had that experience himself. They had come across him.

Mr. WELLS: You are mistaken in that, Mr. Turkington. Our men have never been sent to you.

The PRESIDENT: You made that statement before, Mr. Turkington, and it was disproved.

Mr. TURKINGTON: They did not come from Dublin.

Mr. WELLS: Nor from Belfast either.

Mr. TURKINGTON: There will be cases to prevent unqualified assistants from compounding prescriptions. How many here have left unqualified assistants behind them?

Mr. CONYNGHAM: Everyone round the table.

Mr. WELLS: I have six assistants, and they are all qualified.

Mr. TURKINGTON: Within the last two months a large pharmaceutical establishment has been started in Belfast, and they have not one qualified assistant.

Mr. WELLS: I know the place; the owner of it is qualified.

Mr. TURKINGTON said he had given notice of a motion that unqualified assistants be prosecuted for selling poisons or compounding prescriptions.

The PRESIDENT: We could not do an illegal act by making that compulsory. That is not the law. We could

not enforce a resolution contrary to the law. Besides, your resolution only reached us when the agenda-paper was printed, and we could not put a notice on it.

Mr. TURKINGTON said, with regard to this case of Marshall's, he understood the Lord Lieutenant could wipe off the name of anyone who offended against the Act. He understood that the offence was a criminal offence in which medicines might be used for wrong purposes.

Mr. WELLS: Is there one thing from beginning to end of our Act to prevent me from using medicines for criminal purposes?

The PRESIDENT: Nothing whatever.

Mr. TURKINGTON: Such is the indignation that the Earl of Ranfurly and the Town Commissioners are getting up a petition to the Lord Lieutenant over this case.

The PRESIDENT: They are quite welcome. We have to do our part.

Mr. WELLS said this man was prosecuted and convicted. He promised the Society he would not offend again. They sent an inspector down. The gentleman in question said, "I am not qualified to make up this prescription. I know I am doing wrong, but I am well able to do it, and I will do it for you." He knew he was doing wrong. A particular clause in the amended Act said that registered druggists shall not compound prescriptions. The Society would be doing wrong if they allowed it. He himself had left in the office that day four bottles made up in a druggist's shop. He had another prescription made up by a druggist in the north of Ireland.

Mr. TURKINGTON: I say, fine them; but to leave them in beggary is another thing.

Mr. WELLS: He thought nothing of leaving our licentiates in beggary.

The PRESIDENT said Mr. Turkington might have objected to the 35th clause of the Act. The time to make the objection was when the Amendment Act was being brought in. It was not objected to. When a druggist broke the law systematically they had not only a right to have him convicted, but to go further, and make him a caution to law-breakers. The resolution to expunge the name was unanimously, or almost unanimously, carried.

Mr. TURKINGTON: It is considered illegal because it was not on the agenda-paper.

The PRESIDENT: I would not have accepted it unless I considered it legal.

The matter then dropped.

THE COUNCIL ELECTION.

The REGISTRAR announced that letters had been received from Mr. Conyngham, Mr. Grindley, and Mr. Wells stating that they would offer themselves for re-election on the Council. Mr. Montgomery had written stating that the time at his disposal would not permit of his serving again on the Council, and thanking the Council for their courtesy towards him.

Mr. BEGGS suggested that the Council should ask Mr. Montgomery to reconsider his decision.

Mr. TURKINGTON and Mr. WELLS endorsed Mr. Beggs' remarks, and it was decided that the feeling of the Council should be conveyed to Mr. Montgomery.

The PRESIDENT said increased work thrown upon him in his business would scarcely allow him time to devote to the business of the Council in the future. He had not intended to offer himself for re-election.

Mr. DOWNES said it would be a great loss to the Society if the President should now resign. They might not perhaps require as much of his time as in the past, but it would be a great loss to all the members if they had not Mr. Hayes amongst them. (Hear, hear)

Mr. WELLS said there were only three old members of the Council left now, and he would impress on Mr. Hayes the desirability of his remaining on the Council.

The PRESIDENT said it would be greatly against his will if he did allow his name to go forward. He would give the matter his best consideration within the next few days. (Hear, hear)

THE BRITISH "FIRST" EXAMINATION.

Dr. E. McDowell Cosgrave wrote relative to the "First" examination of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. The only difference, he wrote, between it and the

examination of the Society of Ireland was that in the former students were asked to translate short sentences into Latin.

Mr. WELLS: He forgets that our curriculum is much more extended than theirs. The Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain did not give us a straight answer to our questions. They do not say our examination is not quite as good as theirs. I think the time has come when we should no longer accept their examination, not on the ground that they have refused our examination, but that ours is much more extended than theirs. We are doing wrong to our own licentiates.

Mr. CONYNGHAM said he intended moving a motion in this matter next month. He had for a long time considered this examination, and he thought it would be far fairer to their students that they should adopt some examination that would be accepted by the Medical Council. He believed their examination was equal to any at the College of Surgeons. He thought they should do away with the Preliminary examination altogether, and charge a registry fee of one guinea.

On the motion of Mr. DOWNES, it was resolved that Dr. Cosgrave's letter and the letter of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain be referred to the General Purposes Committee to report to next meeting.

A STRANGE REQUEST.

The REGISTRAR read a letter from Dr. C. T. J. O'Rorke, L.A.H.I., Crossakiel, Kells, co. Meath, desiring registration as a pharmaceutical chemist; and a second letter asking that if the Council did not grant his request that his fee should be returned, as he did not see what advantages registration would confer on him.

It was decided to return Dr. O'Rorke his fee, as the Society's Act did not provide for the admission of such cases as his.

A BURNT CERTIFICATE.

Mr. Henry C. Backhouse, associate druggist, wrote stating that his certificate had been burned owing to an extensive fire on his premises, and requesting a new certificate.

Mr. BEGGS moved that the usual course be followed, and that they do not issue another certificate, but give Mr. Backhouse a statement that he had passed his examination.

Mr. WELLS suggested that Mr. Backhouse should be asked to send the remnants of his old certificate. There was one case he could call to mind in which a man said his certificate had been burned, but when asked he did not send up the remnants. In this case he was sure they would be perfectly justified in giving Mr. Backhouse a certificate.

The PRESIDENT said he had given notice of a motion that a copy of the certificate be granted when the Council is satisfied that the original has been destroyed. He had heard several rather indignant strictures passed on them for not giving certificates, even when satisfied that they were destroyed.

Mr. WELLS thought it better to deal with each case on its merits.

The PRESIDENT withdrew his motion.

Mr. DOWNES: I think we might issue a duplicate signed by the President and Registrar, without the signature of the examiners.

Mr. BEGGS withdrew his motion in favour of Mr. Wells' suggestion, which was agreed to unanimously.

A DONATION

from the British Columbia Pharmaceutical Association of copies of the B. C. Pharmacy Act, By-laws, and Proceedings was acknowledged with thanks.

NEW ADHERENTS.

The following were elected members of the Society:—Mr. James Johnston, Magdala House, The Plains, Belfast, L.P.S.I.; Mr. David Lawson Kirkpatrick, 73 Donegall Pass, Belfast, L.P.S.I.; Mr. Robert Morrow, 25 Cornmarket, Belfast, L.P.S.I.; Mr. Robert Russell Ritson, 25 High Street, Belfast, L.P.S.I.; Mr. Jas. Alex. Stewart, 22 Botanic Avenue, Belfast, L.P.S.I.

The following was elected an Associate Druggist:—Mr. James Rochfort Guest, 118 George Street, Limerick.

The Council then adjourned.

American Pharmaceutical Association.

CONTINUING the report which we commenced last week, we may depart from the actual sequence of the proceedings by completing the report of the Commercial Section, presided over by Mr. G. J. Seabury.

THE PATENT-MEDICINE EVIL

was dealt with by Mr. R. N. Girling, of New Orleans, in a paper which framed the draft of a Bill of four clauses. The first of these was to secure that every proprietary medicine should be labelled with the formula, and, if poisonous, with a prominent poison-label. The second clause proposed to restrict the sale of such medicines to registered druggists, except where there was no druggist within four miles. The third clause exempted preparations of the U.S.P. and National Formulary, and the fourth dealt with the fines to be imposed for the infringement of the Act. The paper was referred to the Executive Committee, but not before Mr. Ebert, of Chicago, had thrown out a gentle word of warning to the effect that such a Bill is not likely to pass. Far better, he said, to do as has been done in Illinois, where the new Pharmacy Act puts all drugs, medicines, and poisons (therefore, proprietary medicines) into the hands of registered druggists, and as only registered apprentices, &c., can sell, the department (drapery) stores cannot employ girls in their patent-medicine department. Nor can the wholesale dealer retail.

Mr. N. A. Kuhn, of Denver, read a paper on American chemical industries, in which he took a favourable view of the progress being made. Following that the Section took up various topics, including cut-rates, tax-free alcohol, &c., and finally Mr. Seabury was reappointed Chairman.

SCIENTIFIC SECTION.

Dr. A. R. L. Dohme, of Baltimore, was the Chairman, and delivered an address in which he referred to the advances now being made in the study of plant-constituents, and alluded to the time which may arrive when the single active principle, or the combination of principles, necessary to produce the particular physiological effect desired will be used in place of galenical preparations. Dr. Dohme then reviewed the contributions made to chemical research during the year, and in a final chapter showed how much inferior American pharmaceutical education is to German.

The papers read were up to the standard. The first two were on

SLIPPERY-ELM BARK.

Both of them dealt with the examination of the bark for starch, a constituent which, according to Professor J. U. Lloyd, the first contributor, is always present in thick slippery-elm bark. He had also obtained the starch reaction with linseed, contrary to common opinion. The discussion following this was of purely American interest, as it was a commentary upon recent prosecutions in Ohio for the sale of slippery-elm bark giving the starch reaction. Professor L. E. Sayre was the next contributor, his paper being on

TARAXACUM-ROOT AND TARAXACIN.

This is a subject to which Professor Sayre has given much attention. Continuing his researches, he now reported that he had obtained a small percentage of acrid principle, distinct from bitter principle, from the root, and he described how this could be obtained—viz., by shaking a watery solution of the chloroformic extract with ether, when the latter yields on evaporation a residue of the acrid body. Dr. Dohme, the Chairman of the Section, then gave a paper in reply to the query

WHAT IS THE PURE ACONITINE OF COMMERCE?

Dr. Dohme gave a good account of the chemistry of the alkaloids of aconite, in the course of which the work of Dunstan and his colleagues was referred to, and gave the result of his own investigations of the aconitine of commerce, concluding therefrom (a) that none of the aconitines of the market examined are pure aconitine of melting-point 197°-198° C. (Freund); (b) that no two of them are the same; (c) that no two can be regarded as sufficiently alike.

to enable a physician prescribing them to expect the same results from the same prescription compounded at different pharmacies, or, at any rate, of aconitines of different makes; (d) that in no case can the physician expect to get the therapeutic effects of pure aconitine; (e) that until we know more about the remaining alkaloids and constituents of aconite-root no reliable method of assay of the root or the active principle aconitine can be devised, and that none of the methods tried is to be considered as reliable; (f) that if aconitine is to be considered an official chemical by the U.S.P. some effort should be made to so establish its identity that a physician may get the effects of aconitine when he prescribes the same, and always get the same effects whenever he prescribes. In the course of the discussion on the paper Professor Prescott expressed the opinion that in time a concentrated preparation of aconite would supersede the alkaloids, because the latter are so liable to decompose.

WILD-CHERRY BARK

was the next topic. In the first of two papers Professor Bastin pointed out how to distinguish between the various cherry-barks of commerce by their structure. The barks of two or more species are occasionally substituted for the official species, and the latter can be detected by the peculiarities of its parenchymatous tissue. In the second paper, on the assay of the bark, Professor A. B. Stevens and Mr. J. N. Judy, Ph.C., showed that the thin bark, heretofore considered more valuable than the thick, is really less so; because the thick yields from 0.32 to 0.35 per cent., and the thin 0.24 to 0.27 per cent. of hydrocyanic acid, and 4.12 per cent. and 3.16 per cent. of amygdalin respectively. That perennial subject in the American Association,

THE DIGESTIVE POWER OF PEPSIN,

was brought up in reply to the query, "What percentage of the United States pharmacopoeial pepsins of the market come up to the pharmacopoeial requirements?" Messrs. C. C. Sherrard and J. L. Tegarden, of Detroit, were the contributors. The report went along the usual lines, and before another on the same subject was brought up Mr. Hallberg, of Chicago, plainly told the members that they had had enough of this sort of thing, and before they had more of it they should appoint a committee to see how far they should go on. This course was not adopted until several of the members assured themselves that Mr. Hallberg was not trying to throw cold water upon investigation. Mr. Hallberg said his sole reason was that pepsin had reached the climax of its usefulness and popularity, and anything about the comparative digestive value of various makes was not new nor interesting. There seemed to be a good deal of sympathy with Mr. Hallberg's view, and the paper was deferred, to be read ultimately by title. One of the most interesting papers of the meeting was the report on the

REVISION OF THE U.S.P.,

presented by Mr. Leo Eliel, the Chairman of the committee. It was stated that the sales of the Pharmacopoeia up to December 31, 1894, were 13,944 copies, and as this is a small result the committee recommended that, in order to make the Pharmacopoeia more popular with all classes of pharmacists, popular and widely-used preparations, such as compound syrup of stillingia, be made official by insertion of their working formulae. The committee also recommended that granulated opium be used in the preparation of tinctures of opium; that medicated waters now directed to be made by trituration with precipitated calcium phosphate be made either by agitation of the oils with hot water, and subsequent filtration, or by use of a double filter; and experiments were called for in respect to some other points. Many of the notes were really of the nature of corrections of errors in the volume.

Professor Prescott next submitted a paper on some

DRUGS OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS,

consisting of dolulugai-seed, mountain-cinnamon bark, manugal rhizome, vita-bark, macbujai, tagalaai branches, and arbutra-wood. A curious paper was contributed by Professor J. H. Beal, M.A., M.Sc., on

THE RELATION OF THE PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECT OF THE ELEMENTS TO THE PERIODIC LAW.

There was much old stuff in the paper. The author came to the conclusion that compounds of elements of high atomic weights are toxic if soluble or absorbable. Binary compounds of less weight than 30 are not poisonous when not in a gaseous state or in an organic combination. The degree of toxicity, however, is by no means proportionate to the atomic weight. Elements with a valency of 2 or over are generally active physiologically. Those with a valency of 4 and 5 are highly poisonous, provided their compounds are soluble and absorbable. The non-toxicity of bismuth salts is a case in point as to insolubility. Peculiarities such as these have already been pointed out by Dr. Lauder Brunton, but the Section thought they were good enough to discuss once more.

This brought the meeting up to the end of Saturday afternoon, but there was still much to dispose of, and resuming in the evening, Dr. Dohme, the Chairman, rattled quickly through four papers by himself, dealing with ergot, laborandi, coca, and ipecac. stems, following which Mr. Seward J. Williams, manager of Seabury & Johnson's laboratories, had the floor while he discussed

AUTHORITATIVE STANDARDS FOR ANTISEPTIC DRESSINGS.

The main question was does, e.g., 5-per-cent. boric lint mean a lint containing 5 per cent. of acid, or one made from a 5-per-cent. solution. This paper was very fully discussed by Messrs. Hallberg, Good, Remington, Prescott, Caspari, Stewart, Alpers, and Dr. Jackson, of Denver. The conclusion was that all labels should express the exact amount of medicating-substance contained in a given weight, or the number of grains per square yard. The general feeling was also in favour of stating the strength of the impregnating-solution. The paper was referred to the Committee on National Formulary for decision.

With the exception of a paper on an analysis of 50,000 prescriptions, by Professor Patch, of Boston, the rest of the papers were taken as read. The Section on

LEGISLATION AND EDUCATION

did not meet until the Monday following (August 19), when there was a long discussion on the best way to educate the pharmacist—of which we had enough last week. The item in the proceedings which most interests us was a report regarding poisoning in the United States. The statistics submitted were based upon the replies received to a circular letter, and reports were received officially from Massachusetts, Michigan, and Wisconsin. The statistics covered altogether one-sixth of the entire population of the United States, and showed about 900 deaths during the past year from poisoning among that number, the causes of death being:—Morphine, 108; carbolic acid, 99; arsenic, 65; opium, 46; Rough on Rats, 45; Paris green, 35; laudanum, 31; strychnine, 21; chloroform, 14; and paregoric, 1.

The proceedings were continued the following day right into Wednesday morning, when the members adjourned until next year.

OILMEN AND CARBOLIC ACID.—Last Saturday afternoon a girl in Clerkenwell noticed near her home a publican's can containing some fluid which she thought was beer, and took a gulp of it. Immediately afterwards she gave a terrific scream, for the can contained strong carbolic acid. She was taken to the hospital, and is recovering. Commenting on this, the *Islington Gazette* refers to the loose way in which carbolic acid is supplied by some oilmen and their assistants, without any kind of distinguishing label on the bottle, can, or other vessel.

AN INQUEST was held on Wednesday concerning the death of Mr. Maurice Bluhm (34), colonial broker, of Mincing Lane, E.C., who shot himself in his bath on Monday afternoon. Deceased was principal of Maurice Bluhm & Co., who deal chiefly in spices and cocoa. The evidence showed that deceased had been much depressed and out of sorts, and complained of financial troubles, which he had largely exaggerated. Dr. Sims stated that the bullet passed through the brain and lodged at the back of the head. The jury found a verdict of suicide during temporary insanity.

Legal Reports.

PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE PHARMACY ACT IN SCOTLAND.

HUGH LEES, assistant with Mr. Matthew Dunning, chemist and druggist, 75 Nelson Street, Tradeston, Glasgow, was on Monday, in the Glasgow Sheriff Court, charged before Sheriff Murray, at the instance of the Pharmaceutical Society, with two separate offences against the Pharmacy Act. Respondent was charged with having, on April 23 last, contravened the 1st and 15th sections of the Act, in so far as he, not being a registered pharmaceutical chemist or chemist and druggist, did unlawfully sell to two boys—Joseph Sime, aged 6, and Charles Sime, aged 10, brothers, who reside at 61 Dale Street, South Side—a quantity of laudanum. It is alleged that the boys' father committed suicide with the laudanum. Mr. James Barrie, writer, prosecuted for the Pharmaceutical Society, whose Scottish representative, Mr. J. Rutherford Hill, was also present. Respondent pleaded not guilty to the charge, and the trial was adjourned till September 20.

At Ayr Sheriff Court, on Tuesday, before Sheriff Orr Paterson, Peter Welsh, chemist's assistant, was charged with a breach of the Pharmacy Act, he having in March last sold by retail a quantity of laudanum or tincture of opium, and a quantity of morphia, both poisons, he not being a duly registered pharmaceutical chemist or chemist and druggist within the meaning of the Act. He pleaded guilty, and was found liable in *£1. 1s. 6d.* of modified expenses.

INVOICING OIL IN DRUMS.

In the City of London Court, on Friday, before Mr. Commissioner Kerr, the case of *Boulton v. West* was heard, in which the plaintiffs, Messrs. Boulton Brothers & Co., 38 King William Street, E.C., sought to recover from the defendants, Messrs. James Powles, West & Co., 156A Devons Road, Bow, the value of certain oil-drums belonging to them which were not returned. One of the defendants' representatives said he admitted having had the casks, but they were not responsible to the plaintiffs for payment. The invoice for the oil which was contained in the drums showed that the plaintiffs sold them the drums as well as the oil. It said "Oil and drums net." He admitted that it was customary to return them as a matter of courtesy, but since the plaintiffs had chosen to sue them he stood upon his rights.

Mr. E. R. Cleeton, representing the plaintiffs, said the words on the invoice did not intend to convey that they sold the drums as well as the oil to the defendants. It simply meant that the oil was supplied in drums, and that in those cases they did not allow any discount; whereas when the oil was supplied in casks they allowed a discount.

Mr. Commissioner Kerr said there was nothing on the invoice to show that the defendants were under any liability to return the drums.

Mr. Cleeton urged that as the defendants had not returned the drums they must pay for them.

Mr. Commissioner Kerr: It does not appear to be so. You must put it on your own invoices that you expect your drums back.

Mr. Cleeton: He has paid for one.

The Defendants' Representative: That is since this dispute, because on that occasion they sent an invoice showing that the drum was not included in the price of the oil.

Mr. Commissioner Kerr observed that if the defendants had to prove the return of every drum they had of the plaintiffs, he did not know where it would end.

The Defendants' Representative: I do the best in my power to return them, but I am not responsible for them. Should I have to pay for one if it was lost?

Mr. Cleeton: Clearly.

Mr. Commissioner Kerr said the plaintiffs must send the defendants a different invoice. He thought that a tailor might as reasonably charge for the brown-paper sheet in which he sent home a new coat as the plaintiffs charge the defendants for drums in which they delivered oil. He must find for the defendants.

The defendants asked for their costs. They had been put to a lot of trouble over the matter, they said.

Mr. Commissioner Kerr: You both of you seem to do business in a very loose way.

The Defendants' Witness: I was insulted when I went there.

Mr. Commissioner Kerr: That is at the bottom of it, is it? It is temper. Then I shall give neither of you any costs. Neither of you will be satisfied, and therefore I am sure I am right. (Laughter.)

ADULTERATION CASES.

BLUE OINTMENT.

At the Isle of Wight County Petty Sessions, last week, Mr. Henry Wellington, described as a chemist, of Freshwater Bay, was summoned for selling 6 oz. of ointment of mercury which was found by Mr. Otto Hehner, the public analyst, to contain 34.8 per cent. of mercury instead of 48.5 per cent. Mr. Hooper (for defendant) asked the inspector if defendant told him there were two strengths of mercurial ointment? Witness: Yes; but I told him that I had merely to ask for ointment of mercury. Mr. Hooper: Did he say he would take the stronger and reduce it to the strength of the ordinary ointment? Witness: He did do something with it, but I can't say what. Mr. Hooper, addressing the Bench, said that the deficiency of strength in the sample submitted to the public analyst arose in this way: There were two kinds of the ointment—one was for cattle and the other for human use. Defendant kept the former kind principally. When the police sergeant, who was well known to him, came in, defendant, as he thought, took down the stronger ointment, and, it being the milder quality that was required, it was necessary that he should mix some lard with it and bring it to the required strength. Unfortunately, it was the milder ointment that defendant took down, and the result was that there was a deficiency of mercury in what he sold. The Bench imposed a fine of *1s.* and costs.

TINCTURE OF RHUBARB.

At Swadlincote Petty Sessions on Tuesday, Letitia Needle described as a chemist, was summoned for having sold tincture of rhubarb which was deficient in quality. The facts were admitted, but it was stated that the tincture was just as purchased from the wholesale dealers. Fined *5s. 6d.* and costs.

IS BEESWAX A DRUG?

The Cranbrook (Kent) Bench of Magistrates have taken a different view of this question to that as reported in our last issue. On Thursday last a grocer named Tagg, of Hawkhurst, was summoned before the Cranbrook Bench on a charge of selling beeswax containing 50 parts of foreign ingredients. In this case the Magistrates were of opinion that beeswax did not come under the meaning of the Food and Drugs Act. The case was therefore dismissed.

REFUSING TO SELL.

At the Rathfriland Petty Sessions on September 6, before Mr. S. Paxton Cowan, J.P., presiding, and a full bench of Magistrates, Henry Bell, described as a druggist (but not registered as such), Rathfriland, was summoned for having refused to sell to Sergeant Nelson, of the Royal Irish Constabulary, certain drugs—to wit, extract of ergot (liquid), laudanum, tincture of aconite, and paregoric—which were exposed for sale in his shop, at Rathfriland, on August 10, 1895. Mr. McSpadden (Messrs. Fryar & McSpadden, solicitors, Rathfriland and Banbridge) defended.

Sergeant Nelson said the prosecutions were instituted under the 17th section of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1875. The sergeant then proceeded to give his evidence, stating that on August 10 he asked Mr. Bell to sell him 12 oz. of tincture of aconite. Defendant said that he did not keep the like. Witness pointed out a stock-bottle on the outside of which was a label bearing the name of the drug. The defendant afterwards admitted that it was, but stated that he could not sell it as it was a poison. Witness then asked him was he aware that he was liable to a penalty for refusing to sell the article. Mr. Bell replied that it

he sold it to witness other parties would come down upon him, so that—

Mr. McSpadden: Between the two stools he would come to the ground. (Laughter.)

Sergeant Nelson: That's just it. I tendered him the money for the drug. The sergeant then described the other attempted purchases.

The Chairman: Did he in each instance admit that the bottle contained the drugs that you asked for?—Yes

Cross-examined by Mr. McSpadden: Aren't the drugs in question drugs that by law Mr. Bellis precluded from selling?—Of course they are. I understand he has been fined in this court for selling them.

And yet you asked him for drugs that you well knew he was not entitled to sell?—If he was not entitled to sell them he had no right to expose them for sale.

What were the labels on the bottles?—Tincture of opium, tincture of camphor (compound), extract of ergot (liquid), and tincture of aconite.

Mr. McSpadden then examined the sergeant as to the money he tendered for the drugs (4s for 12 oz of the ergot), whereupon the Chairman suggested that that had nothing to do with the case. Counsel then addressed the Bench, pointing out that Mr. Bell was a young man who had not been altogether free from prosecutions under the Drugs [Pharmacy] Act, having, as their Worships were doubtless aware, been fined in that court on a previous occasion. Since that time, however, he had dispensed with every drug that he was not entitled by law to sell. But remaining in the shop were two or three of the bottles with the labels of those drugs on them, and Mr. Bell would tell them what they contained. Sergeant Nelson knew perfectly well that the defendant had no right to sell drugs that were scheduled poisons, yet he took the advantage of asking for them. He maintained that the tender made by the sergeant was not a proper one.

Henry Bell, the defendant, was then examined. He deposed that Sergeant Nelson first purchased a pint of almond oil, and divided it in three portions. He then pointed to a bottle on the shelf, and said that he wanted 12 oz. of ergot out of it. Witness said that if he had any ergot in the house he could not give it to him, as he would be liable to a heavy penalty for so doing. As a matter of fact, he had none in the house, and the bottle was a "dummy." He was fined last year for having sold scheduled poisons, and he immediately did away with the drugs. He, however, did not like to spoil the bottles themselves, and he did not think there was any harm on his part in utilising them as "dummies," and placing them on the shelves. In each of the other three cases deposed to by the sergeant the bottles were "dummies." He had neither of the drugs in question in his possession. The bottles contained coloured water.

The Chairman: Why did you expose the bottles for sale when they did not contain the articles mentioned on the labels?

Witness: I did it for show purposes more than anything else.

The Chairman: You had no right whatever to do such a thing.

Witness: I did not think there was any harm in my action. I would have been at some loss if I had destroyed the bottles.

The Chairman: You could have left them aside until such time as you would have been qualified to sell the drugs.

Witness: I did not think I was committing any offence. The bottles were not in a conspicuous place. I could not have removed the labels without destroying the bottles.

Cross-examined by Sergeant Nelson: I am a "druggist, &c." Et cetera might mean anything.

Witness was then examined as to the difference in appearance between the coloured water and the real thing; after which Mr. McSpadden addressed the Court on behalf of his client.

The Magistrates then retired to consider their decision, and after a few minutes returned into court, when the Chairman said: The Magistrates are almost unanimous that these cases have been proved, and that the defendant be fined 10s. and costs in each case—2l. and costs in all.

Gazette.

PARTNERSHIP DISSOLVED.

Harvey, A. H., and Harvey, C., jun., under the style of A. H. Harvey & Co., Birmingham, oil and colour merchants, drysalters, and wholesale chemists and druggists.

THE BANKRUPTCY ACTS, 1883 AND 1890.

ADJUDICATIONS.

Berlyn, Abraham, Birmingham and Stratford-on-Avon, dental surgeon. Millerchip, Thomas, Coventry, ex-physician and surgeon.

Bankruptcy Reports.

Re CHARLES CHURCHILL COLLIER, Gamlingay, Cambs., Druggist.

AT the Bedfordshire Bankruptcy Court, held at the Shire Hall, Bedford, on Tuesday, before Mr. Registrar Clare, this debtor appeared to undergo his public examination. The statement of affairs showed liabilities 121l. 15s., and assets 28l. 10s., leaving a deficiency of 93l. 5s. The Official Receiver observes that the receiving order in this matter was made on August 27, 1895, on the petition of the debtor himself, and he was on the same day adjudged bankrupt. He states that he commenced business at Gamlingay on October 1, 1892, as a druggist, with a capital of 80l., his own money. Previous to October, 1892, he was manager for a druggist at Devizes, Wiltshire, for seven years. The bankrupt has kept a cash-book and ledgers. He attributes his insolvency to bad trade and ill-health, and states that he first became aware that he had not sufficient property to pay all his debts in full six months ago. The bankrupt accounts for his deficiency as follows:—Excess of liabilities over assets on August, 27, 1894, 30l.; household expenses of self, wife and two children, since August 27, 1894, 63l. 5s.; total, 93l. 5s.

In answer to the Official Receiver, the debtor stated that he was not a certificated chemist, but had been in a drug-stores before. He started business with about 80l.

Mr. Ewen: What made you think Gamlingay a fitting place to start business in?

The Debtor thought there might be a chance. He used to take about 300l. a year, and that would yield about 34 or 35 per cent. profit. He could live on that, but trade had been getting worse lately. He kept some books, and admitted the cash-book showed that he spent more money than he was taking. In 1893 he spent 253l. 13s., and received 256l. 10s. 9d.

Mr. Ewen: These books always showed you that there was not a living?

The Debtor admitted that during the last eighteen months he was not making a living. He knew that he was insolvent twelve months ago; but had been carrying on business hoping that trade would get better.

The examination was adjourned until October 29.

Under this failure the following are creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Barclay & Sons (Limited), London ..	..	..	29 0 0
Goodship, Edwin, New Southgate ..	..	..	33 0 0

Re JAMES TILSLBY, Berriew, Chemist and Druggist.

THE public examination of this debtor has been held. In reply to the Official Receiver, he said he had lived at Berriew since 1862, when he commenced to manage a chemist and druggist's business for his brother. He bought the business in 1863, and had carried it on since in his own name. He held the position of postmaster for twenty-nine years, having retired twelve months last April in favour of his son. He commenced business with 20l. of his own, and his wife, who had an independent fortune of about 3,000l., lent him 400l. He personally superintended the business at Berriew up to April last, when he met with an accident, and his son had since carried on the business in his (the debtor's) name. He had carried on a coal business for six years, and for five years held a farm. He had made money by his shop, but not

by the farm or the coal business. He did not become aware of his insolvency until last June. The debtor, with the aid of his wife and his son, was prepared to offer a composition of 8s. in the pound. The Official Receiver pressed him to increase the offer to 10s. in the pound, pointing out that he could not allow the son to continue to carry on the business unless a reasonable offer was made, and the examination was adjourned with the view to this being considered.

Novelties.

A SAFETY RESPIRATOR.

MR. GUSTAVE ZIMMER, 82 Mark Lane, E.C., is introducing a new respirator or lung-preserver for the use of



those who work in factories where there are noxious gases, or a mist of fine dust which would irritate the lungs. The respirator is made of india-rubber, into the mouth of which a piece of wet sponge is placed before the worker puts it on; in inhaling air it comes in through this sponge, whereby soluble gases are absorbed and solid particles deposited, and in exhaling the breath goes through

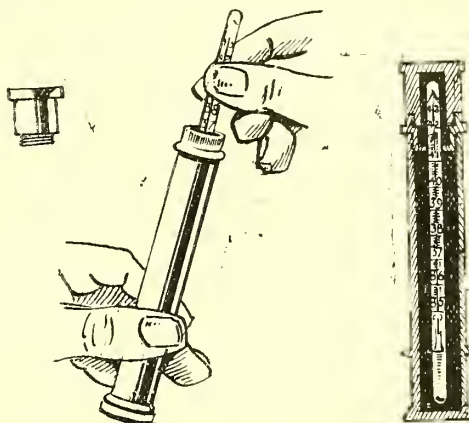
the small valve at the top. Air cannot get into this. We have no doubt that the respirator will be found useful in chemical and pharmaceutical laboratories, and some retailers in the neighbourhood of chemical and other factories can do business with it by judicious recommendation.

A NEW ELASTIC CLOTH.

FOR some time Alderman Ira Ickringill, the head of the well-known firm of Ira Ickringill & Co. (Limited), spinners, of Keighley, has been studying the production of a material for underclothing which would at the same time afford the mechanical support usually obtained by elastic belts, stockings, and the like, and he has succeeded so well that a company, under the name of "Ickringill's Patent Hygienic and Elastic Cloth Syndicate (Limited)," has been promoted to work the patents which have been obtained, and to popularise the cloth, and bandages, belts, stockings, &c., made from it. These may be obtained from Messrs. S. Maw, Son & Thompson, Aldersgate Street, E.C., who have undertaken the London agency, while Messrs. Reynolds & Branson, of Leeds, are agents for the North of England. The cloth is not an ordinary elastic one, but the under-surface is of velvet pile, the pile covering the whole surface, or is in lines, the latter form enabling, we should think, a certain degree of atmospheric circulation round the body or limb. So far as abdominal belts are concerned the main idea of the inventor has been to get a cloth which would have true hygienic properties, so far as adaptability to washing is concerned, combined with warmth without undue moisture. It appears to us that he has succeeded in this, for the cloth is one quite unique; and while it has all the strength of cotton and the softness of silk, it has the warmth of wool—indeed, chest and lung protectors, and undervests for the coming winter, are amongst the articles which the above-mentioned firms will stock. The reports which we have read in regard to the cloth are highly favourable, and those who wish to see samples of it and get further particulars should address the secretary, Mr. E. J. Pryse, 35 Devonshire Street, Keighley.

IMPROVEMENT IN CLINICAL THERMOMETERS,

F. J. PUTZ & Co., chemical-merchants, 16 and 17 Great St. Helen's, E.C., are introducing here clinical thermometers packed as suggested by Dr. Ollendorff. The thermometers are of the usual style, being carefully made and accurate, and the feature is that the case containing them is sufficiently large to hold a solution of an antiseptic. The case is made of vulcanite, at the top of which is inserted an india-rubber ring, and at the base a corresponding ring in which the stem of the thermometer accurately fits. There is a similar ring in the screw-lid, so that the thermometer when *in situ* is thoroughly secured. The sterilisation of clinical



thermometers is a necessity which is not sufficiently realised, especially in this country where the taking of the temperature by the mouth is universally followed and the possibility of conveying infection, therefore, at the maximum. It is customary, we know, for hospital attendants to sterilise clinical thermometers, but this is seldom done in households, and even medical men find it difficult always to secure that effective sterilisation that is necessary. Dr. Ollendorff's system is, therefore, to be commended. The illustration accompanying this note shows the nature of the thermometer-case. We may add that Messrs. Putz & Co. have been appointed agents for Mr. Carl Kellner, of Arlesberg, and Messrs. Ströhlein & Co., Düsseldorf, Germany.

Trade Notes.

THE Terrol Company, 34 Devonshire Road, Forest Hill, S.E., have been awarded a gold medal at the World's Exhibition at Amsterdam.

THE National Dental Hospital, Great Portland Street, W., charge only 31/ 10s. (not 63/) for the hospital practice and dental lectures, which is the lowest fee charged in London.

THE fittings and stock of the Bristol firm, S. G. Clements & Co. (Limited), now in liquidation, are advertised in our supplement this week for sale by auction on Tuesday and Wednesday next.

IT is time to see about stock of chest-protectors, and in this connection we may call attention to the fact that Messrs. Solport Bros. this week intimate a reduction in the prices of their "Furfelt" goods.

THE American agents for the Apollinaris Company (Limited) announce that the company have decided not to handle Hunyadi Janos water after March next, when their contract with Andreas Saxlehner, Budapest, the proprietor of the Hunyadi Janos Spring, will terminate. The Apollinaris Company have acquired control of valuable bitter-water springs in the neighbourhood of Budapest, and after

March will commence the sale of their natural Hungarian aperient water.

WILCOX & CO. (FOREIGN CHEMISTS, LIMITED), of 239 Oxford Street, W., have received notice for the compulsory purchase of their premises from the new Central London Railway.

MR WALDEN, the Secretary of the Westminster College of Pharmacy, writes to us to say that Wills's *Materia Medica* for the Minor is not out of print, and still enjoys a good sale. It was the larger book for Major students to which we referred.

MESRS. CORBYN, STACEY & CO.'S "Notes on Drugs, Chemicals, and Pharmaceutical Preparations" has reached its thirty-first edition. Those who wish to get something nandy on new remedies should send for a copy of it. It is useful and practical.

THE Albion Milk and Sulphur Soap people tell us that their soap is being imitated, and they want the assistance of the trade in finding out infringers of their "Government-protected rights by imitation, substitution, or manufacture"—whatever that may be.

THE proprietors of Norton's camomile pills have brought out, under the title "A Hundred Years Ago," a readable little brochure to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the establishment of their business. The book is an illustrated account of some of the things that were in vogue a century ago, such as patches, sedan-chairs, stage-coaches, the pillory, and the stocks. Chemists can get supplies of the pamphlet on application to Norton's (Limited), 21 Spital Square, London, E.

SOME weeks ago we printed an inquiry note regarding Allen, Robinson & Co., who were in business in London about fifty years ago. The result of the note has been that the solicitor who is inquiring for anyone connected with the firm has ascertained that in or about the year 1846 the above-named firm carried on business as agricultural chemists at 81 Fenchurch Street, London, the partners constituting the firm being Christian William Nicolay and Conway James Allen, the former also being described as of No. 2 Oxford Square, Hyde Park, Middlesex, and he was supposed to be the continuing partner. If, with that additional clue, anyone can add to the information, we shall be glad to forward it to the proper quarter.

IN our recent note on Messrs. D. & W. Gibbs' new series of medicated soaps we inadvertently stated that the series consists of eight instead of ten. They are known by the following names:—Sulphur; white birch tar; ichthyol and tar; eucalyptol; sulphur, camphor, balsam Peru; corrosive sublimate ("Superlative Antiseptic Soap"); horax, naphthol, and sulphur ("Freckle Soap"); boracic acid ("Shampoo Soap"); salicylic acid and sulphur; carbolic acid ("Surgeon's Soap"). Messrs. Gibbs inform us that they are quite prepared to make any special soap to order, but it will be understood that only bulk orders can be dealt with, the production of a small number of cakes not being practicable, owing to the expensive nature of the process.

WE have received from Mr. James Townsend, Queen Street, Exeter, samples of almanacks for 1896. The "Universal," "Purse," and "Bouquet" almanacks represent styles which suit different kinds of trade, and are beautifully produced. The "Universal" is an octavo almanack, printed in two sizes, and including a number of fine illustrations and appropriate descriptive matter. Mr. Townsend also sends us a bundle of samples of his counter-bills, which are produced at wonderfully cheap rates, although the printing is decidedly above the average, the latter remark particularly applying to the special "Rainbow" handbills. Mr. Townsend has brought out a revised edition of his chemists' label catalogue, which now extends to 80 pages, and is included in an embossed cover of excellent design.

ONE of the best "medical guides" printed in English on the Continent that have come under our notice is a little handbook of first-aid in accidents and sickness, published by Mr. H. Finck, English chemist, of Geneva, Switzerland. The first edition of this work appeared four years ago, and a second has been issued quite recently. The guide contains chapters on first-relief in accidents, therapeutic memoranda, a list of "indispensable medicines," a useful table of thera-

peutic preparations, with their properties and doses, and an alphabetical list of common diseases, with hints on their treatment. In a town visited by so many English-speaking tourists as Geneva, Mr. Finck's list should have a large field for distribution. Its usefulness as a handy-book of information for the public is equalled by its excellent typographical appearance.

SOME very pretty almanacks have come to us from Mr. H. Silverlock, 92 Blackfriars Road, S.E. These, of course, are for 1896, and of small pocket-size we have no fewer than eight specimens, with distinct covers in exquisite floral designs, and all giving a good space for the chemist's own advertisements, and very useful information regarding medicines and household wants. The "Court" almanack is a new kind, in which half of the page containing the monthly calendar is left blank for memoranda. The "New" almanack is produced in octavo size, 36 pages, the decorations on the cover comprising medicinal plants. In addition to these we have a sample of the card-calendar produced in gold and colours, with twelve separate monthly calendars attached by an eyelet. Mr. Silverlock's order-form for these contains full particulars as to the style and price.

Trade-Marks Applied for.

ANY person who has good grounds of objection to the registration of any of the following marks should at once communicate with Sir Reader Laak, Comptroller-General, at the Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.

(From the "Trade Marks Journal," September 4, 1895.)

Figure of knight in armour; for chemical substances used in manufactures, photography, or philosophical research, and anti-corrosives. By Griffiths Brothers & Co., 29 Mack's Road, Bermondsey, London, S.E. 188,285.

Device of lighted candle within a square wording; for chemical substances used for agricultural, horticultural, veterinary, and sanitary purposes. By Taylor & Co., 7 Tithebarn Street, Liverpool, merchants. 188,948. The essential particular is the device.

Sketch of a steamship within a circle, and the words "Kof Clipper"; for a cough-mixture for human use. By John Porter, Station Street, Coalville, Leicestershire. 188,141. The essential particular is the device.

Device of tower with spiral staircase, surmounted with the motto "Primo non nocere," contained in an oval; for patent medicines for human use. By Philippe Lauth, 8 Boulevard du Jardin des Plantes, Carcassonne, France, brewer. 187,536. The essential particular is the device.

Portrait of a man with sash; for medicinal oils for outward application. By Eli Smith, 33 Prou Road, Upper Clapton, London, N.E., warehouseman. 188,381. The essential particular is the portrait.

"HEARTSEASE," and flower-decorations contained in a circle, and address of applicant; for medicinal preparations for human use, but not including preparations for affections or diseases of the heart or any preparation of a like kind. By Mayfield Archibald Lilly, Botanic Hall, 33 Colston Street, St Augustine's, Bristol, patent-medicine proprietor. 188,589.

"TRILBY"; for pills and ointment for human use. By Jas. Dewar & Co., 16 Sturt Road, Walton, Liverpool. 188,920.

"BINNACLE"; for substances used as food or as ingredients in food. By John Macdonald Moody, Junior United Service Club, London, S.W. 188,148.

Device of label and signature of applicant, Max von Pettenkofer; for extract of meat. By Max von Pettenkofer, 1 Residenz Strasse, Munnich, Bavaria, scientific professor and doctor. 188,373. The essential particular is the facsimile of applicant's signature.

The "FAVOURITE," and device showing horse-race upon label; for soaps and extracts of soaps included in

Class 47, detergents and other preparations for laundry purposes. By Brammall Brothers, Ash House, Broad Green, Liverpool. 183,823. The essential particular is the device.

"WASHALL," and signature; for perfumed soap. By C. H. Parsons & Co., Sarah Street Works, Sarah Street, Leicester. 189,044. The essential particular is the signature "C. H. Parsons & Co."

(From the "Trade Marks Journal," September 11, 1895.)

"MASTIFF"; for chemical substances used in manufactures or philosophical research and anti-corrosives. By T. Hinshelwood & Co., Glasgow Oil and Colour Works, Glasgow. 187,716.

"IDEAL HEALTH SALT," on label; for chemical substances for use in medicine and pharmacy, but not including pills nor goods of a like kind to pills. By Houldsworth & Cliffe, Perseverance Chemical-works, Heckmondwike, Yorks, drysalters. 187,884. The essential particular is the combination of devices on label.

Figure of a donkey with wording on its saddle; for a patent medicine for human use, being an ointment for piles. By Henry Wells Buer, Mulia House, Maidenhead, Berks, patent-medicine vendor. 189,902. The essential particular is the device.

"ONAH"; for surgical syringes and douches. By Arthur Benjamin Cruikshank, c/o Chancery Lane Safe Deposit, 62 Chancery Lane, London, W.C., mine proprietor. 189,239.

"ALLENBURYS"; for substances used as food or as ingredients in food in class 42; also for feeding-bottles in class 50. By Allen & Hanburys (Limited), Plough Court, 37 Lombard Street, London, E.C. 187,740.

"KOA"; for mineral and aerated waters, natural and artificial, including ginger-beer. By Batey & Co. (Limited), 216 Kingsland Road, London. 189,305.

"KERMOL"; for a toilet-preparation for chapped hands (not medicated). By Herbert Buckley, 15 Bridge Street, Lockwood, Huddersfield, chemist. 188,838.

"QUAKER"; for condensed milk. By Ernst Enke, trading as Anglo-Dutch Condensed-milk Company, Noord-Hollandsche Gecondenseerde Melkfabriek, "Arcadia," Purmerend, Holland, manufacturer. 189,192.

Business Changes.

MR. BAKER, chemist, has purchased the retail business of Dr. Smith, at 89 Plumstead Road, Plumstead.

THROUGH the death of Mr. J. J. Kain, chemist, High Street, Lewisham, S.E., the shop is closed and fittings removed.

MR. A. L. SMITH, dental surgeon, has purchased the chemist's business of Mr. W. H. Walker Pugh, 750 Old Kent Road, S.E.

MR. F. H. FRESSON has taken over the old-established business of his father, Mr. L. F. Fresson, pharmaceutical chemist, Stevenage.

MR. A. HAWTHORNE, chemist, late of Stafford, has purchased the business of Mr. F. H. Fresson, of 100 High Street, Brentford, W.

THE LOAMPIT DRUG COMPANY (LIMITED), opened a shop about twelve months ago at Loampit Vale, Lewisham, S.E., which has since been destroyed by fire, and will not be opened again as a chemist's.

MR. F. E. RUBRA, chemist, formerly of Crewkerne has purchased the business of Mr. Marsden, trading as the "City and Suburban Drug Company (Limited)," Lordship Lane, Dulwich, S.E.

DAY'S SOUTHERN DRUG COMPANY have opened a very large and extensive branch at 167 Upper Street, Islington, London, N., which has been handsomely fitted up by Alfred J. Natali & Co., of 9 Wilson St., E.C.

MESSRS. COOPER & Co., manufacturing chemists, have removed from 2 New North Road to 1 Stamford Road, Kingsland, London N.

THE business of Bright's Pure Drug Company (Limited), 21 High Street, Clapham, S.W., has been purchased by May's Drug Stores (Limited).

MESSRS. GOLDTHORPE & COOK, of Hare Street, Woolwich, and Herbert Road, Plumstead, have opened a pharmacy at 113 High Street, Plumstead, Kent.

MR. WALTER BALLARD, for many years in business at Newington Causeway, S.E., has purchased the business of Mr. A. B. White, at High Street, Cricklade.

MR. D. CROFT, chemist, formerly of Doncaster, has purchased the business of Mr. W. Sadler, jun., pharmaceutical chemist, 1 Wightman Road, Haringay, N.

MESSRS. PETERS & PEPPERDINE, chemists, Moorgate Street, E.C., have opened a first-class pharmacy in Goswell Road, a few doors from Finsbury Pavement.

Marriages.

ARMSTRONG-HEPTINSTALL.—At SS. Mary and Cuthbert's, Chester-le-Street, on September 3, by the Rev. D. S. Johnson, M.A., Frederick William Armstrong, chemist and druggist, Ancrum Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, eldest son of Mr. Joseph Armstrong, of Chester-le-Street, to Florence Louisa, youngest daughter of Mr. Robert Heptinstall, of Southwick, Sunderland.

HEARSON-RICHARDSON.—On September 5, at St. James's Church, Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, by the Rev. R. L. Dashwood, M.A., assisted by the Rev. A. H. B. Brittain, M.A., Her Majesty's chaplain, Vepery Madras Katoleen, only daughter of Mr. J. E. Richardson, chemist, of Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, to Charles James, youngest son of Mr. W. H. Hearson, of London.

SMITH-CHURCHYARD.—At St. Thomas's, Camden Town, on August 26, Sidney Smith, chemist and druggist, Wordsley, Stourbridge, to Edith Tweddall, eldest daughter of R. L. Churchyard, pharmaceutical chemist, 112 Camden Road, London.

SQUIRE-REANEY.—On September 5, at St. James's, Muswell Hill, London, by the Rev. J. S. Whichelow, George Squire, pharmaceutical chemist, Sheffield, to Edith, elder daughter of John E. Reaney, Claremont, Muswell Hill.

WOOD-O'NEILL.—On September 4, at St. Nicholas' Church, Cork, by the Rev. F. W. Ainley, M.A., Uriah Wood, chemist and druggist, Arnold, Nottingham, to Georgina Maria, elder daughter of J. Walter O'Neill, Cork.

Deaths.

BARTON.—Mr. John Barton, chemist and druggist, High Street, Barnet, died on September 2, at the age of 32, after a few days' illness. He had been in business at Barnet about ten years, and was much respected throughout the district.

BRIVEAU.—On July 22, Frederick Merrick Briveau, chemist and druggist, Borough, S.E.

DIXON.—Mr. Thomas Dixon, a well-known and much-respected chemist of Rickmansworth, died very suddenly on Friday. He was found dead in bed.

DONINGTON.—The death took place on Friday, September 6, of Mr. Robert Donington, chemist and druggist, Spalding, at the age of 63. Deceased had been a member of the Spalding School Board since its formation, and at the time of his death was chairman. He also held several offices in connection with public affairs.

HORTON.—On August 31, Horatio William Horton, chemist and druggist, Holloway. Aged 59.

HUGHES.—On August 28 at 108 George Street, Limerick, Bridget, wife of John Hughes, chemist. Aged 26 years.

McKESSON.—At Cornwall-on-Hudson, on August 8, Berkeley, son of John McKesson, of McKesson & Robbins, New York. Aged 20.

SQUIBB.—At 38 Oakley Square, N.W., on September 4, suddenly, Mr. Jonathan R. Squibb, who for many years held an important position with Messrs. Hovenden & Co., perfumers, of Berners Street, Oxford Street, but retired two years ago.

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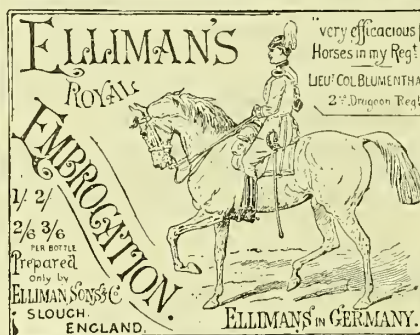
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THE UNEXPECTED OPIUM RISE.

THE course of the opium-market is no exception to the rule
that the unexpected generally happens. The season for
this important drug is now at its height in Smyrna and
Constantinople, and, according to almost all prognostica-
tions, the beginning of the arrival of the new crop at the

shipping ports should have been signalled by a general collapse of the already very unstable prices. As a matter of fact, the exact opposite has occurred. The crop, it is now generally admitted, is one of the biggest on record, and will probably reach, if not surpass, the enormous total of 10,000 cases, which is more than is required to cover the world's yearly requirements of Turkish opium. By the end of August no fewer than 2,200 cases of new opium had already been received at Smyrna, and over a thousand at Constantinople, which is a good deal more than double the quantity that had reached those trading centres from the growing districts at the corresponding date of 1894. If the crop-estimates are correct, it follows that some 6,500 cases would still remain in the hands of farmers and middlemen in the interior, while we have further to take account of a stock of about 1,100 cases in Constantinople and 2,800 cases in Smyrna. The opium supplies in London are said to be unusually light (not over 500 cases in the public warehouses), and those in the States also are thought to be by no means excessive; but, even allowing for this, it seems safe to assume that the total available quantity will be a large, if not a copious, one. And it is not only the opium-crop which has been a good one. Raisins and figs, two other staple articles of Smyrna export, are also abundant this year; and the valonea-harvest promises well. There is, consequently, less chance than usual that the farmers and dealers in Asia Minor will be compelled to sell their produce at any price, and perhaps this uncommon plentifulness of money has to some extent helped the upward movement which sprang up in Smyrna quite suddenly a month ago, and has since taken a strong hold of the market.

The guiding spirits in this apparently unjustifiable, and certainly hazardous, movement are two or three firms of speculators who are supposed to hold a good deal of old-stock opium themselves, and who are now assiduously engaged in vamping up a rise, which, when taken at the flood, may enable them to get rid of their supplies at a price not warranted by the actual conditions of supply. The first result of this bold policy has been the discomfiture of another set of dealers who had sold opium on speculation, mostly for export to the States, before the crop was actually off the fields. These gentlemen have been compelled to pay much higher rates than they expected, for between August 11 and August 30 the price of new current tale quale opium has advanced in Smyrna from the parity of 7s. to 7s. 8d. per lb., while other kinds have risen in the same proportion. This result has been brought about with very little trouble on the part of the bull-speculators, for during the whole month of August only 150 cases of opium were sold in Smyrna, about 70 of which were taken for shipment to the consuming markets, principally America, while the rest went into the store-houses of the speculators *à la hausse*, who will probably come out at the little end of the horn, to use an expressive Americanism. The great consuming markets, who are the ultimate arbiters of the position, do not seem to show any inclination to be bounced into buying at present, and if they keep aloof for a few more weeks there is every probability that the Smyrnesse traders will tire of keeping up a market that lacks inherent elasticity. Of course, London brokers, dealers, and morphia makers are doing their best to take advantage of the upward movement by painting it to their clients in lurid hue, but we do not think that their confidence in the continuity of the advance is sufficiently great to induce them to assist it by placing orders in Smyrna. A fair amount of business has lately been done in London, it is true, both in manufacturing

and "soft shipping" kinds, the latter being the opium used by the Chinese coolies in the West Indies and South America, but this is far from meaning that there is any general faith in the Smyrna movement. A singular feature of the position is that London remains, as it has long been, the cheapest market for opium all round, quotations here being below the parity either in Turkey or the States. The chief sufferers by the movement will probably be those Smyrna speculators who, counting upon a falling market, contracted in June for opium deliverable in August, and who have now to pay the full penalty of their recklessness. With them we cannot sympathise. In estimating the position it should also be taken into consideration that the sowings which will yield the winter crop of opium are now imminent. If they are favoured by warm and rainy weather there will be every prospect that the second crop will also be large, and that fact would probably hasten the end of the present abnormal advance.

ITEMS AT IPSWICH.

SIR DOUGLAS GALTON, K.C.B., F.R.S., D.C.L., the President of the British Association, delivered at Ipswich, on Wednesday evening (by deputy, owing to temporary illness while in the chair), one of the strangest addresses which have ever been heard from the presidential chair since the Association was founded in 1831. We have been accustomed to expect on these occasions from the eminent men appointed to the presidency some exposition of the branches of science in which they are masters, or, in the case of such distinguished amateurs as the Marquis of Salisbury, a brilliant revelation of the thoughts of the onlooker upon the work or theories of his professional co-workers. This year's President departs from these lines, and scarcely manages to rise above prize-essay level in his survey of the conditions of certain sciences at the formation of the British Association in 1831, as compared with their condition now. Thus, he managed to glance at geology, geography, chemistry, astronomy, physics, meteorology, botany, animal physiology, anthropology, bacteriology, sewage purification, smoke-abatement, and mechanical engineering—a publisher's dozen of subjects each of which has, in the past, been admitted by specialists in them to be too big for survey in a British Association address. Yet to them all Sir Douglas Galton prefaced an account of the origin of the British Association, and added references to science in Germany, and the condition of scientific research in the United Kingdom. There are the elements of popularity in such an address, for it is practically free from technicalities, and is so nicely broken up by head-lines that a newspaper can give it sectionally, yet maintain the interest of readers, and not imperil the reputation of the address.

The address is a disappointing one to come from a President who claims that the body over which he presides has assisted in establishing nearly all the landmarks of scientific progress during the past sixty-five years. Here, for example, is what Sir Douglas Galton said under "chemistry":—

The report made to the Association on the state of the chemical sciences in 1832 says that the efforts of investigators were then being directed to determining with accuracy the true nature of the substances which compose the various products of the organic and inorganic kingdoms, and the exact ratios by weight which the different constituents of these substances bear to each other. But since that day the science of chemistry has far extended its boundaries. The barrier has vanished which was supposed to separate the products of living organisms from the substances of which minerals consist, or which could be formed in the laboratory. The number of distinct carbon compounds obtainable from organisms has greatly increased; but it is small when com-

pared with the number of such compounds which have been artificially formed. The methods of analysis have been perfected. The physical, and especially the optical, properties of the various forms of matter have been closely studied, and many fruitful generalisations have been made. The form in which these generalisations would now be stated may probably change, some perhaps by the overthrow or disuse of an ingenious guess at Nature's workings, but more by that change which is the ordinary growth of science—namely, inclusion in some simpler and more general view. In these advances the chemist has called the spectro-scope to his aid

—and so on for another dozen lines. The other twelve subjects were treated in somewhat similar style, physics and engineering receiving, however, much fuller treatment; and the reflections upon explosives and gunmaking were really so interesting that it seems a pity that the address was not confined to them alone. Better that than a series of incomplete items of which we fail to catch the true meaning. The British Association has had nothing to do with most of the discoveries which have heralded new epochs in science, and, saving its expenditure of 60,000*l.* in promoting research, and the arrangements since its foundation for exhibiting exploring and scientific lions, there seems no reason why the past sixty-five years should have been drawn before its vision at telegraphic speed. We expect, however, that while Sir Douglas Galton, as a general secretary, has sat beside twenty-five past Presidents he has had the opportunity of seeing and judging what kind of addresses appealed most directly to the mixed audiences of a first B.A. night, and his own one was calculated to tickle the palate, prevent drowsiness, and aid, rather than impede, the digestion of the savant, dilettante, and the guinea annual. If that was the intention, the address was a brilliant success. For the "annual" there was enough of scientific wonder in it; for the dilettante fine measurements, statistics, and facts from thirteen branches of science; and for the savant an explanation of why science is not fashionable—viz., because "science students—upon whose efforts our progress as a nation so largely depends—have not received the same measure of recognition which the State awards to services rendered by its own officials, by politicians, and by the Army and by the Navy, whose success in future wars will largely depend on the effective applications of science." The pity of it!

PHARMACEUTICAL POLITICS IN GERMANY.

THE German Apotheker-Verein met in annual congress at Augsburg in Bavaria from August 19 to 21, and devoted what time it could spare from picnics, receptions, and other pleasant frivolities to the reading of papers and the discussion of the position and prospects of the pharmaceutical craft in Germany. The congress of the Apotheker-Verein is more like the annual meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society than like the Conference meeting, inasmuch as the scientific papers read at it are usually of secondary interest, and the business transacted revolves mostly around the ever-green subject of the consideration of the apothekers' status in relation to the State and the public. Various views are enunciated, and many speeches made, after which the official party, who are led by a President, Herr Apotheker Frochlich, every bit as smart and as autocratic as his brother-President of Bloomsbury, carry a number of cnt-and-dried resolutions, and go their way rejoicing and victorious. The meeting of the Apotheker-Verein, however, is held in a different city each year, which fact seems to have inspired Bloomsbury people to the idea of provincial gatherings.

On the present occasion the meeting was one of unusual animation and interest, for German pharmacy is passing through a critical phase just now. The system of State licences which places the apotheker in a position midway between that of a professional man, a trader, and a Government official, has a great many enemies, and the Government itself, recognising the serious evils to which it has given rise, and of which the chief is the speculative traffic in businesses and licences, has lately shown a serious disposition to reform the existing state of things, a prospect which naturally fills with dismay the men in business who, having been so fortunate as to secure licences, have sunk much capital in a shop in fancied security from competition within a given area. At last year's Congress a resolution was carried declaring that the time had come for a radical reform of the pharmacy laws, and indicating increased stringency in the examinations, a prolongation of the time of study, and the conversion of pharmacies into a species of national hygienic institutions as the direction in which that reform should principally take. The Prussian Minister who looks after pharmaceutical matters (for in Germany the regulation of the craft is not an Imperial duty, but is left to the several States composing the empire) has since then brought in a Bill providing for the general application of the system of personal concessions—*i.e.*, a concession under which the person to whom the right of establishing a pharmacy in a given district is granted must carry on the business himself, instead of, as is now only too often the case, using his licence to establish a shop, and then as soon as may be selling the concern at a heavy profit to another person, the notorious pharmacy-barter against which the socialist press, than which German pharmacy has no bitterer enemy, is never tired of inveighing. The Bill, it is true, has not passed, but everyone seems to feel that the change is impending, and the pharmacists as a body naturally try to make the best terms they can for their vested interest.

On the present occasion, however, the presidential party made a sudden and extraordinary *volte face* from their position of last year, for they proposed and carried a resolution (apparently straining the rules to their utmost in doing so) emphatically declaring that the apotheker should be treated above everything like an ordinary trader, and that, rather than agree to the system of "personal concession" they would have complete freedom of opening shops for all qualified pharmacists, on condition that it should be specially enacted that none but qualified apothekers should be allowed to sell any drugs or remedial agents whatsoever. A motion to this effect was adopted, after a prolonged and heated debate, by sixty-eight against thirty votes. It declares that in order to remove the admitted evils in the present Prussian pharmacy-law it is not necessary to revolutionise the basis upon which the existing pharmaceutical structure has been reared, but that it would be sufficient to enact that no pharmacy shall be sold by the concessionee until he has carried it on for a certain number of years, or at his death. Further, that the adoption of the system of personal concessions pure and simple would aggravate instead of mitigate existing evils, and that in case it should be decided to alter the principle of the existing law, the Verein declares itself in favour of complete liberty of opening pharmacies by qualified men and compensation by the State to the present holders of concessions. This resolution has naturally caused extreme irritation among the pharmacists outside the Association, who not unreasonably shudder at the prospect of an unlimited increase in shops, and the consequent reduction in the profits of the limited number of establishments now existing. A writer in the *Pharmaceutische Zeitung* proposes, as a way

out of the difficulty, that fresh concessions should be issued in sufficient number to provide for one pharmacy to every 8,000 inhabitants in cities or 9,000 inhabitants in rural districts; that during the first twenty years of the concession one-fourth of the profits of the shop should go in equal shares to the pension fund of the Apotheker-Verein and to local benevolent institutions; and that at the end of that term the concessionee should be at liberty to dispose of his concession freely. These proposals are not to apply to the existing pharmacies, but in case the proprietors of such shops should wish to dispose of their concessions they shall pay 8 per cent. of the sale price into a State fund for purposes of pharmaceutical education.

ANALYSM: HOT AND STRONG.

SIMULTANEOUSLY there have appeared during the past week two portentous volumes regarding adulteration of food and drugs. One of these is the Blue-book containing the evidence given before the House of Commons Select Committee regarding food-products adulteration, and which the fate of the last Government determined to incomplete. The Committee publish the evidence and recommend that a Committee on the same subject should be appointed by the present Parliament. The other volume is on "The Law and Chemistry of Food and Drugs," and is written by Mr. H. Mansfield Robinson, LL.D. (Lond.), Solicitor and Clerk to the Shoreditch Sanitary Authority, &c., and Mr. Cecil H. Cribb, B.Sc. (Lond.), F.I.C., Public Analyst to the Strand District Board of Works. It is claimed for the latter book that it is "a practical manual for persons administering law of food and drugs adulteration (*e.g.*, medical officers of health, public analysts, sanitary inspectors and inspectors of nuisances, constables, members of municipal corporations urban and rural sanitary authorities, justices of the peace, &c.), also for persons trading in provisions and drugs, and the general public." We call attention to this volume in connection with the Blue-book because Messrs. Robinson and Cribb's one pretends to be, and is likely to be taken as, a guide for those who are directly concerned with the administration of the law. Books of that character ought to be, if not judicial, at least accurate and as free from bias as possible, and that, we regret to say, it is not. It may be remembered that for many years we protested against the manner in which the Local Government Board tabulated the returns of public analysts, so that the samples adversely reported upon by analysts appeared as actual convictions, while the amount of adulteration found in the samples examined was taken as a correct reflection of the adulteration actually existing in trade. We need not again illustrate by figures how fallacious this system is, for the Board have practically commenced to amend their reports. Nevertheless Messrs. Robinson and Cribb take this fallacious basis as the starting-point of their volume, and work up the statistics in an almost hysterical manner. For example, England and Wales consume 1,740,000,000 quarts of milk a year; cost, 23,000,000*l.*; the L.G.B. Report for 1892 shows 13.3 per cent. of milk samples adulterated; our authors put the adulteration at 12 per cent. of water, therefore "the inhabitants of England and Wales buy annually under the name of milk 20,880,000 quarts of water, for which they pay 348,000*l.*" "Butter presents a worse case"—to wit, annual consumption, 435,000,000 lbs.; cost, 27,187,500*l.*; adulteration, 15.3 per cent., = 20,880,000 lbs. margarine, or "a yearly loss of at least 609,000*l.*" So the authors go on until they declare that "an almost fresh field lies open to investigation in the chemicals and drugs used for medicinal purposes. In 1892-93 only 702 samples

of drugs were taken under the Act for the whole of England and Wales, and of these one-sixth were adversely reported on. Any tampering with medicines may have the most serious consequences, and the addition of substances, in themselves perfectly innocuous, may make the highest medical knowledge of no avail, and do as much harm as the wilful addition of an actual poison." Throughout the volume (the actual legal interpretations in which, let us say, are generally excellent) there is the same tendency shown to exaggerate evils, and to put things in as bad a light as possible, so that the reader who does not know otherwise has the impression that 10 to 20 per cent. of traders, including retail druggists, are wilful adulterators. Let us turn to the Blue-book to see the tale that is told there.

The evidence given before the Select Committee was more voluminous in regard to dairy produce—milk, butter, and margarine—than any other articles, coffee and cocoa coming next. So far as drugs are concerned it is significant that little was said except what is entirely to the credit of retail pharmacists. Thus, Mr. A. Wynter Blyth, F.I.C., stated, as Medical Officer of Health of one of the most important London districts, "We have found that they [medicines purchased] have all been fairly up to the standard of the Pharmacopœia." Mr. J. C. Preston spoke as a wholesale druggist when he said:—

I do not think that, as a rule, there is any material systematic adulteration; but I do think that very often there are slight impurities, particularly with regard to chemicals. Those impurities, in most instances, are of such a small nature that they do not really affect the consumer; he practically gets what he wants. I consider that the drug-trade of England, as a whole, is in a very fairly satisfactory condition.

This statement was well supported by the Kensington Vestry representative (Mr. R. A. Robinson), who submitted to the Committee a table showing, amongst other things, that in the course of five years no actual adulteration of drugs had occurred in that district (as far as the inspectors could find out), although a small percentage were returned as inferior. It is scarcely to be supposed, if the drug-trade were the happy hunting-ground that the above-mentioned authors say it is, witnesses who could have spoken on the opposite side to Messrs. Blyth, Preston, and Robinson would not have been forthcoming; but there was absolutely no evidence given before the Committee to controvert what these gentlemen said. Indeed, we may go further, and say that the "drugs" section of Messrs. Robinson and Cribb's book is a testimonial to the comparative absence of adulteration in the retail drug-trade. We have it from the Local Government Report that in 1893 751 samples were taken, and 85 were reported adulterated. These consisted chiefly of simples, many of them sold by grocers, and if the records of the past two months can be taken as a guide, chemists are in the minority in the sale of adulterated drugs. During that time we have reported eight convictions under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, seven offenders being grocers or shop-dealers not chemists, and one only was a registered chemist. Curiously, in the same period two public analysts have admitted errors in their analyses upon which summonses were issued. Were we to extend the analysis further, it would only bring out the fact more clearly that registered chemists and druggists are responsible for a mere fraction of the drug-adulteration found out in England and Wales, which fact is one of the best tributes to the good effects of education and training. It is further evident from the Select Committee's evidence that those epidemics of adulteration occasionally discovered are in articles which are largely handled by non-pharmaceutical dealers—for example, caraway, cassia, cinnamon, ginger, and pepper. More than three-

fourths of the convictions for selling spent ginger were obtained against grocers. If samples were drawn from the drug-trade there is little to show it from the law courts, as few of our calling were taken there. Yet this is such a widespread evil that Mr. John J. Rogers, one of the Select Committee witnesses, stated that the real ginger trade of the country is being ruined by it.

MORE ABOUT SIAM BENZOIN.

IN our issue of May 25 we gave a detailed description of the collection of benzoïn in Siam. That description, which was supplied by Mr. Beckett, of the British Consulate at Bangkok, was the first authentic account given from personal investigation of the habitat of the benzoïn-tree and the collection of the gum-resin. The India Office, having had its attention drawn to Mr. Beckett's valuable report, applied to the Siamese Minister of the Interior at Bangkok for further information, a request which has produced another valuable contribution to our knowledge of the trade in this important drug. The Siamese account, which is written in quaint and somewhat tautological English, and has been left severely unedited by the India Office people, is entitled "Memorandum Regarding the Tree that Produces Resin, and on the Gum Benjamin Industry in Siam," and contains, in substance, the following new information.

Benzoin-trees are generally found on elevated ground, and do not thrive on the plains. They are propagated from the fruit, and mostly grow in clumps of fifty or sixty in the forest region of Sena Phan, Tangslok, and the borders of Müang Theng, in the province of Luang Prabang. That territory, as we pointed out in our last article, when we printed a sketch-map showing the Siamese benzoïn-districts has lately been annexed by France. The trees are usually tapped between July and August, when the season begins, and September to November. "Then," says the report, "the season ends, and henceforward is the period during, which the gum benjamin is hought and sold." It appears however, that the only reason for not tapping the tree at other times of the year is that the people are then occupied in their rice-fields. The gum is obtained by the usual method of "notching a girdle round the stem," and leaving the benzoïn to exude. It requires three months before the exuding gum has hardened sufficiently to be collected. The forests are open to all who care to gather gum, and who can command the necessary plant—an axe, a rice-basket, and an open woven basket. There are no dues or taxes of any kind. The gum collected is sorted into three classes, viz.:

Best grade, or "slua," in large lumps, not dirtied by adhering bark.

Second grade, smaller lumps, slightly mixed with bark, and worth in the market about half the price of the first grade.

Third grade, or "mun," worth half the price of the second grade, and consisting of the residual small pieces of gum mixed with bark and earth.

The price in Bangkok, according to the report, is 260 ticals per Chinese catty of 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ lbs., "which is as it has always been"—an observation somewhat difficult to understand considering the great variations in the price of the drug on the European market. The Kew Garden authorities, we may add, have tried in vain these last twenty-five years to procure seeds or plants of the benzoïn-tree. They lately entertained hopes of obtaining a supply through Mr. F. H. Smiles, of the Royal Survey Department of Siam, who was travelling in the benzoïn-districts a few months ago on a botanical expedition, but, unfortunately, that gentleman died at Korat in May last before he had accomplished his mission.

HELIUM IN THE AIR.

Mr. R. A. Gregory, writing in the *Fortnightly Review* last month, said:—"Helium has not yet been found in the air, nor is it likely to be. As with hydrogen, its atoms are so light that the earth is unable to hold them, and their energy is sufficient to carry them eventually outside the sphere of influence of our globe." Now that Bouchard and Troost's investigation (*C. & D.*, page 373) has shown that helium is given off by certain mineral-water springs, we may feel sure that there is plenty of helium in the air if we could but get at it, for there must have been tons of it discharged by these springs since they first gurgled.

THE STATE AND SCIENCE.

The United Kingdom spends a fairly round sum from the national exchequer on science every year. During the recent sitting of Parliament the following were amongst the votes that were passed for the year 1895-96, apart from the sum of nine millions to be devoted to public education:—

Scientific services in the Navy	£ 4,000
Surveys of the United Kingdom	219,210
Science and Art Department, United Kingdom ..	719,155
Scientific investigation, &c., United Kingdom ..	26,527
Universities and colleges, Great Britain, and intermediate education, Wales	98,339
London University	12
Queen's Colleges, Ireland	4,950

A FLUID-EXTRACTS PRIZE.

The Royal Academy of Medical, Physical, and Natural Sciences of Havannah is offering, amongst other prizes, the Cañongo Prize, value 250 dollars in gold, for the best essay on "The Pharmacological Study of the Fluid Extracts." The competition, which is open to any person, will be closed on March 19, 1896, by which date all papers must be sent in, written in French or Spanish, and sealed, with a motto on the internal envelope, and in another envelope bearing the same motto the author's name and address. Dr. Vicente de la Guardia, Havannah, the Secretary of the Academy, is the man to write to for further particulars.

PUZZLE PRESCRIPTIONS.

The *New York World* got the following prescription from a druggist, who confessed that he could not decipher it, but

Stychnum 9 1/2
Acid urum 9 1/2
Jumbeum 5
Prunus 9 5
Ex 1 tunc 9 1/2
Ind on fel us x x x dnd
one to six

the *World* found several druggists who could do that quite easily. The trouble is that they did not agree. We have another beside us written by an Aberdeen doctor, which is

B. Aug. An. Prunus 9 1/2

perhaps not so intricate, but affords, nevertheless, scope for a conference such as a correspondent said last week is necessary for the solution of some prescriptions given in the *Minor*. We shall be glad to receive postcard renderings of either or both of the above.



NETLEY HOSPITAL.

ON the east of Southampton Water is situated one of the most remarkable medical institutions in the world—Netley Hospital, the headquarters and training-school of the medical officers of the British and Indian armies. Some who attended the recent Pharmaceutical Conference may have seen it when they took the trip to the Isle of Wight, as the hospital is the most conspicuous building on the left going eastwards. It is a magnificent structure in red brick, with white-stone facings. Its frontage is more than a quarter of a mile long, and as the corridors extend the whole length of the building, they are reputed to be the longest in the world. Lawns lie between the hospital and the water, and the extensive grounds, with their charming walks, leave plenty of space for officers' quarters, and a score of other buildings besides the hospital.

Many a chemist and druggist may have come within a stone's throw of the hospital without visiting it, and for that reason we wish to apprise the trade that a welcome is given to all who are interested in medical treatment if they call any day between 10 and 4. There is a pretty little museum of natural-history specimens which old students of the hospital have brought home or sent home, and the corridors and wards afford food enough for reflecting upon the moral and physical stamina of Mr. Thomas Atkins. The hospital receives all soldiers invalided from tropical climates, who come to the hospital immediately on their arrival home. There is accommodation for 1,300 patients, but 1,500 could be taken at a push, and during the winter there is seldom fewer than 1,250. Then is the season that the sick men are sent home by the hundreds. All the medical practitioners who succeed in passing the Entrance examination for the Army Medical Staff and the Indian Medical Service have to put in a period of instruction at the hospital and the medical school attached to it. They thus become acquainted with the peculiar kinds of diseases which are met with in the army, while they attend lectures on special medical subjects, and are instructed in all the duties and regulations pertaining to them as officers of the army, after which they must pass the outgoing examination, which gives them the choice of vacant appointments. Through the courtesy of Brigade-Surgeon Lieut.-Colonel Evatt, a representative of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST was recently shown over the hospital and school by an orderly of the Medical Staff Corps; and as it is from members of that corps that army compounders are manufactured, our representative walked through the hospital with an eye mainly to the duties of these men, and the prospects of the service for chemists' assistants. In spite of an open mind on the subject, our representative had come to the conclusion, before he was half through the wards, that chemists' assistants should leave the Corps severely alone. Curiously, that opinion was confirmed by the orderly, a smart and intelligent young fellow, who had served a five-years' apprenticeship to the drug trade.

This is exactly what our representative saw. At the Netley railway-station a company of the corps was waiting the train by which about 50 invalided men arrived. The Corps helped them with their luggage and took charge of them until they reached the hospital. There more of the Corps men gave out the hospital uniforms from the clothing department, and others took the invalids to their wards. In these wards one could see men of the M.S.C. engaged in cleaning, or directing the sturdier of the inmates in such operations. There is a small staff of female nurses, apparently to give tone to the place, but all of the M.S.C. have to serve a period at nursing. Now the large majority of the cases are of fever and venereal complaints. Several of the wards for the latter are not open to spectators nor to female nurses, because the cases are so loathsome. It is the M.S.C. men who have to nurse these cases. Details would be horrible; we need only mention that it sometimes takes a man a whole day to clean and dress the sores of one syphilitic patient. After this, all the fetching and carrying which has to be done becomes easy and pleasant work.

There is very little pharmaceutical work to be done. Three compouncers do all that is required in Netley, and as far as could be judged during the visit the work is neither onerous nor high class. The dispensary consists of two rooms, clean, orderly, and well-lighted, but not particularly well-appointed. It compares very badly with corresponding dispensaries in the United States Army Medical Service, which have neat nests of drawers, recess-labelled bottles, excellent apparatus, balances, &c., and a set plan of arrangement, so that any compounder in the service may begin work in it after a brief look round. The Netley dispensary looks as if it had seen much service. In the dispensary proper the bottles are of all sorts and sizes, the labels what the ingenuity of the compounders has made them, but little attempt at uniformity. There is a poisons cupboard, and, as we have said, everything is scrupulously clean. The second apartment is the stock-room, containing the medicines as received from Woolwich, and mostly bearing the labels of wholesale houses, those noticed being the Apothecaries' Society of London, Evans, Lescher & Webb, Herrings & Co, Savory & Moore, and Wright, Layman & Umney.

Our representative had spoken to Brigade-Surgeon Evatt about the support which the English Local Government Board had given the Corps by making ex-compounders eligible for poor-law dispenserships. The brigade surgeon and a sergeant in his office thought their men quite fit for the appointments, but the specimen in the dispensary was a splendid proof to the contrary. His replies to some questions were of such a nature that it required the orderly's assurance that the man had passed as a compounder to convince our representative that he knew anything about medicine. Our man remarked that the dispensary solution of quinine was red, and the compounder explained that was because quinine is red. He was gently told that it is

white. "Oh, no!" said he, "it's always red. I never saw white quinine"; and he produced his bottle, which, true enough, contained pink quinine, the label stating that it is coloured "to prevent peculation." There were many things in the poisons cupboard besides poisons, but the compounder did not know that. What a pertinent comment on the L.G.B.'s recent action! Whether this man is a fair sample of the bulk or not we do not venture to say; indeed, the orderly assured us that the chief-compounder at Netley is a reliable dispenser, but, at the same time, he said it is not for that work that any young druggist should join the Corps. As a pharmaceutical calling it is, to put it very mildly, disappointing. Those who wish to join it must enlist for the usual twelve years' service (part of which is with the Reserve), and conform to all the regulations bearing upon the private soldier, except in regard to much of the drill. They will have the satisfaction of serving under the members of the Army Medical Staff, who, unfortunately, are not all as nice to their inferiors as Brigade-Surgeon Evatt, whom to salute must be a pleasure; and they will have to do many things which their training in pharmacy must render repellent. The worst of it is that Netley is the best of it.

Cod-liver-oil Emulsions.

PROFESSOR GAY, of the Montpellier School of Pharmacy, has been making a study of the literature of cod-liver-oil emulsions, and, combining therewith practical experience, he has succeeded in bringing out a rather interesting article in *Repertoire de Pharmacie*. He divides the subject into six parts, in the first concluding that the retail pharmacist cannot employ mechanical apparatus, but use simply the mortar and pestle. Speaking, in the second, of usual emulsifying-agents, he mentions the suitable bodies which have been proposed; but there is nothing new in what he says about them, except that he prefers gums to all other emulsifying-agents, and objects to alkaline substances, extract of malt and condensed milk, and saponin or quillaia. As to the stability of the emulsion, he thinks that separation cannot be entirely avoided, and when it happens the emulsion should be a perfect mixture after a slight shake. He finds, in the fourth place, that 50 per cent. of oil is the general strength adopted. In the fifth place he refers to correctives. Sugar or glycerine may be advantageously used. M. Stout has recommended glycyrrhizate of ammonia in the proportion of about 1 oz. to 1 pint of oil, and saccharin in the proportion of about $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. to 1 oz. is excellent. It may be mixed with its own weight of acetic ether before being added to the oil. The aromatic correctives are dealt with also, but in regard to those Professor Gay has little new to say, except that they are far more efficacious for their purpose when mixed with some alcoholic liquor, such as brandy, rum, or kirsch, or even chloroform or ether, because with these they take more kindly to the stomach. Finally, the author deals with the preservation of the emulsions when they have to be kept long, and he gives preference to alcohol for this purpose. He appends two formulæ, which we quote as representing French ideas at the present time. They are both for creamy emulsions (*émulsion crémeuse*), which he considers preferable to liquid emulsions, as the latter always separate into two layers:—

(1)

Cod-liver oil	3xvj.
Icing-sugar	3vj.
Powdered gum arabic.. ..	3iv.
" tragacanth	5iss.
Cold-coffee infusion	3vij.
Rum	3iv.

Mix the sugar and gums in a mortar. Shake the oil and coffee in a bottle, and add as much of this to the mortar contents as will make the powder into a plastic, semi-liquid paste on stirring; then put in some of the rum and of the oil mixture, *secundum artem*, until the emulsion is complete.

By replacing the tragacanth with an equal quantity of gum arabic a liquid emulsion is obtained. Any essential oil can be used instead of coffee, putting it in the form of an aromatic water or otherwise. Ten to 15 drops of essential oil to a pint of emulsion is sufficient.

(2)

Cod-liver oil	3xvj.
Oil of bitter almonds	gtt. xx.
" wintergreen	gtt. xx.
Icing-sugar	3vj.
Powdered gum arabic	3iv.
" tragacanth	3iv.
Distilled water	3vij.
Hypophosphite of lime	5iiss.
" soda	gr. 75

Mix the oils, and proceed as in the foregoing formula.

New Books.

- Beck, C. *A Manual of the Modern Theory and Technique of Surgical Asepsis*. With 65 illustrations and 12 plates. Cr. 8vo. Pp. 303. 7s. 6d. net (Saunders' New Aid Series). (Kimpton.)
- Bouchut, E., et Desprès, A. *Dictionnaire de Médecine et de Thérapeutique Médicale et Chirurgicale*. 6th edit. Over 1,000 illustrations. (Félix Alcan Paris.)
- Butcher, A. H. *Materia Medica: Tables designed for the Use of Students*. Cr. 8vo. (Edinburgh, Livingstone). Sewed, 1s. 6d. net. (Simpkin.)
- Christie, D., L.R.C.P. & S., Ed. *Ten Years in Manchuria: a Story of Medical Mission work in Moukden, 1833-1893*. Post 8vo. pp. 103, with 5 illustrations. Cloth cover, 1s. (Houlston & Sons, London, and J. & R. Parlane, Paisley.)
- Clerke, Agnes M. *The Herschels and Modern Astronomy*. Cr. 8vo. Pp. 224. 3s. 6d. (Century Science Series). (Cassell.)
- Clowes, F., and Coleman, J. B. *Quantitative Chemical Analysis, adapted for Use in the Laboratories of Colleges and Schools*. Third edition. Post 8vo. Pp. 24 and 533. Illustrated, 9s. (J. & A. Churchill.)
- Cohn, Lassar-. *A Laboratory Manual of Organic Chemistry: a Compendium of Laboratory Methods for the use of Chemists, Physicians, and Pharmacists*. Translated, with the author's sanction, from the 2nd German edition by Alexander Smith. Cr. 8vo. pp. 424, 8s. 6d. (Macmillan.)
- Dutton, S. *Sea-sickness (Cause, Treatment, and Prevention), Voyaging for Health, Health Resorts: a Concise Practical Treatise*. 4th edit. cr. 8vo. pp. 141. Sewed, 1s. (Hirschfeld.)
- Erskine, Jas. *The Causes of the Neglect of Suppurative Ear-disease*. Post 8vo. Pp. 18. Reprint from the *Glasgow Medical Journal*. (Alex. Macdougall, Glasgow.)
- Felkin, R. W., M.D. *On the Geographical Distribution of Tropical Diseases in Africa*. (W. F. Clay, Edinburgh.)
- Guide to the Veterinary Profession 1895-1896: Containing all the Information Required for obtaining the Diplomas of Membership and Fellowship of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. Also the Professional Examination Questions set by the R.C.V.S. from the Commencement*. Post 8vo. pp. 32. Paper covers, 1s. (Jas. Thin, Edinburgh.)
- Hibberd, S. *Field Flowers: a Handy Book for the Rambling Botanist, suggesting what to look for and where to go in the Outdoor Study of British Plants*. New edit. 80 coloured plates and engravings. Cr. 8vo. pp. 156, 3s. 6d. (Collingridge.)
- Mills, F. W., and Ponton, A. C. *Stenopaic or Pin-hole Photography*. 8vo. Pp. 28. Sewed, 1s. net. (Dawbarn & Ward.)
- Mills, F. W. *The Photographer's Exposure Book*. Obl. 32mo. Pp. 43. 1s. net. (Dawbarn & Ward.)
- Robinson, H. M., and Cribb, C. H. *The Law and Chemistry of Food and Drugs*. Crown 8vo. Cloth cover. Pp. xx and 519. 8s. (Rebman Publishing Company, Limited.)
- Shenstone, W. A. *Justus von Liebig: His Life and Work (1803-1873)*. Post 8vo. Pp. vi. and 220. Cloth cover, with portrait. 3s. 6d. (Century Science Series). (Cassell & Co.)
- Smith, Wm. Johnson, F.R.C.S. *A Medical and Surgical Help for Shipmasters and Officers in the Merchant Navy*. (Griffin & Co.)
- Stanley, Wm. Ford. *Notes on the Nebular Theory in Relation to Stellar, Solar, Planetary, Cometary, and Geological Phenomena*. Royal 8vo. Pp. xvi and 259. With illustrations. (Trübner & Co., Limited.)

BRITISH ENTERPRISE IN ROUMANIA.—An English factory for the production of linseed and cotton-seed oil, which was started at Galatz (Roumania) in 1894, has been making satisfactory headway, and will probably be a success so long as the high Roumanian tariffs on imported oils are kept up. For the oil there is a good local demand at remunerative prices, but owing to the extreme cheapness of forage in Roumania there is no demand for the seed cake for fattening cattle, &c., and this has to be exported to England. Two or three other oil-mills have been set up in other parts of Roumania.

New Companies and Company News.

MARTIN & NOBLE (LIMITED).—Capital 5,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire and carry on the business of making and dealing in confectionery, jams, marmalades, syrups, jellies, invalids' and other specialities, cordials, aerated waters, &c., carried on by Wm. J. S. Blake and Thos. Hillier as "Martin & Noble" at Roman Road, Old Ford, Bow, London, E.C. Registered without articles of association.

MINERAL-WATER FOUNTAIN COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital 15,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To enter into an agreement with Robert A. Panchaud, and to acquire, develop, turn to account, and work certain patented inventions, which are not described. The first directors (to number not fewer than two nor more than five) are to be appointed by the subscribers. Remuneration, 150*l.* per annum, and a share in the profits, divisible. Registered office, 155 Fenchurch Street, E.C.

CLARKE'S "OPTIMUS" COFFEE EXTRACT (LIMITED).—Capital 10,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares (2,000 5*l.*-per-cent. cumulative preference). Objects: To acquire and carry on the business of coffee-extract and chicory-extract manufacturers, coffee roasters, dealers, and blenders carried on as "E. Clarke & Co.," at Optimus Works, Queen's Road, South Lambeth, by Thomas Welham and Edward G. Whitehead, and to enter into an agreement with the said vendors. Registered without articles of association. Registered office, 474 Queen's Road, South Lambeth, S.W.

GEORGE SOWERBY (LIMITED).—Capital 7,000*l.*, in 10*l.* shares (500 6*l.* per cent. Preference). Objects: To acquire, take over as a going concern, and carry on the business of a glass manufacturer, carried on by George Sowerby, as "Sowerby & Co.," at the Lemington Glass-works, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and to enter into an agreement with the vendor for the purpose. The first directors (to number not fewer than three nor more than five) are:—George Sowerby (managing director), Michael Dodd, and James T. Mogridge. Qualification, 50*l.* Remuneration, 2*l.* 2*s.* each per board meeting attended. Registered office, Lemington Glassworks, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

PRICE & BURNETT (LIMITED)—Capital 2,000*l.*, in 1,900 5*l.*-per-cent. preference and 100 founders' shares of 1*l.* each. Objects: To acquire and carry on the businesses of chemists and druggists (1) carried on by the representatives of Wm. Price, deceased, at 11 Witham, Hull, and (2) by Wm. Burnett at 285 Hedon Road, Hull. The first subscribers (each with one share) are:—G. A. Wray, merchant, and Mrs. F. A. Wray, 5 May Street, Hull; T. E. Linton, gentleman, and Mrs. T. E. Linton, 11 Witham, Hull; W. Burnett, chemist, and Mrs. W. Burnett, 285 Hedon Road, Hull; H. Burnett, Withernsea, gentleman. The first directors (to number not fewer than two nor more than three) are Tom E. Linton and Wm. Burnett, who are managing directors. Qualification, 50*l.*; remuneration, as the company may decide. Registered office, 11 Witham, Hull.

LAST week Messrs. H. E. Foster & Cranfield sold by auction in London amongst other shares, &c., five 5*l.* A shares (4*l.* 10*s.* paid) Brooke, Simpson & Spiller (Limited), at 18*s.* per share, and five 5*l.* shares (3*l.* paid) Henry Lamplough (Limited), at 2*l.* 10*s.* per share.

PHILLIPS & Co. (LIMITED), Bombay, held their tenth annual general meeting on June 29. The balance at credit of profit-and-loss account amounted to 53,777*r.* 8*a.* 8*p.*, out of which a dividend at the rate of 7½ per cent. was paid, and 10,000*r.* carried to the reserve fund. 5,234*r.* was written off for bad debts and depreciation of plant. Altogether the year has been a most satisfactory one, and had it not been for the very adverse state of exchanges a very much larger profit would have been shown, as the amount of business done was far in excess of previous years.

The thirteenth annual report of the directors of Kemp & Co. (Limited), of Bombay, just issued, shows a balance to the credit of profit-and-loss account of 69,742*r.*, out of which it

is proposed to pay a dividend of 12 per cent (or 21*r.* per share) on the paid-up capital. This disposed of 42,000*r.* The rest of the balance is to be distributed as follows:—13,918*r.* to reserve fund; 4,000*r.* as bonus to the staff; 4,713*r.* towards bad debts; 3,352*r.* towards deterioration of plant and furniture; and 1,758*r.* towards deterioration of building. The reserve fund, with the addition now proposed, will amount to 192,788*r.*

Practical Notes and Formulæ.

SALINE LIQUOR ERGOTÆ.

BERNEGAV AND BURKHARDT suggest the addition of common salt to liquor ergotæ, whereby a preparation less alcoholic than usual may be obtained. Five per cent. of common salt is added to the powdered ergot, and the menstruum is a mixture of 1 part of S.V.R. and 4 parts of water—the liquor to be made by the usual percolation process.

COMPOUND TINCTURE OF CAJUPUT.

THIS is an eclectic remedy for cholera morbus, summer diarrhoea, cramps, &c., especially when there is little fever or inflammation and much depression:—

Oil of cajuput	3j.
„ anise	3j.
„ peppermint	3j.
„ cloves	3j.
S.V.R.	3 iv.

Mix.

Dose: A teaspoonful every ten to thirty minutes until relief is obtained.

GLOVE CLEANERS.

(1)

TAKE fine curd soap, 1 lb., scrape it into a fine powder, put into a jar, and pour upon it from time to time sufficient strong alcohol to make it into a thick jelly; add 1 teaspoonful of ether or ½ teaspoonful liquor potassa; mix, and put into bottles well corked. To use, put the glove on the hand, and rub on the preparation with a piece of flannel, when the dirt will disappear.

(2)

	Oz.
Strong solution of ammonia	½
Solution of chlorinated soda	8
Distilled water	9
Yellow soap in fine shreds	12

Make into a paste, and apply with a clean piece of flannel.

—Phar. Era.

EXTRAIT DE CAPRICE DE VALERIE.

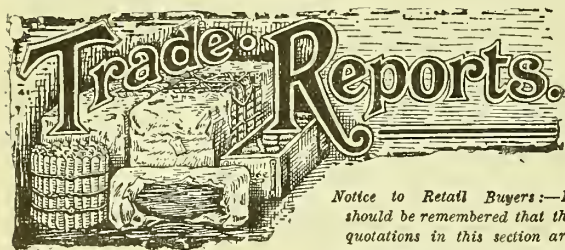
THE *Drogisten Zeitung* gives the following formula for this new perfume:—

Italian verbenia oil	mx.
Oil of rose-geranium	mx.
Oil of bergamot	5ss.
Essence of musk	5ss.
Tincture of civet	5ss.
Tincture of storax	5ss.
Essence of vanilla	3ss.
Extrait jasmine	3x.
Extrait tuberosc	3 viiss.
Extrait rose	3 iiss.
Tincture of orris-root	3 iiss.
Rectified spirit	3ij.
Rose-water	3j.

Mix.

FIRES IN U.S. PHARMACIES.—The 40,000 retail druggists of the United States have their premises insured for \$80,000,000 for which they pay premiums of \$1,500,000, although the losses are but \$150,000 a year.

B.S.C. IN PHARMACY.—The School of Pharmacy of the University of Michigan has established a four years' course of study for the degree of Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy. Two years of the course are in the usual science subjects and the remainder in pharmaceutical subjects.



Notice to Retail Buyers:—It should be remembered that the quotations in this section are invariably the lowest net cash prices actually paid for large

quantities in bulk. In many cases allowances have to be added before ordinary prices can be ascertained. Frequently goods must be picked and sorted to suit the demands of the retail trade, causing much labour and the accumulation of rejections, not all of which are suitable even for manufacturing purposes.

It should also be recollected that for many articles the range of quality is very wide.

42 CANNON STREET, E. C., September 12.

THERE has been no important change in the general position of the markets since our last report. Business continues fairly satisfactory, with a steady undertone in many articles. In fine chemicals the principal feature has been the great advance in the price of English refined Camphor, and a further increase is considered probable. Tartaric acid is also again dearer, and Cream of tartar has advanced several shillings. Citric acid remains very firm, and Caffeine shows a tendency towards higher rates. Morphine and Pilocarpine are also very firm. In heavy chemicals the recent improvement is well maintained. Caustic soda, Soda ash, Bleaching-powder, Sulphate of copper, and Arsenic are all firmly held, but Sulphate of ammonia has sold at almost the lowest price on record. Sugar of milk remains very firm. The working arrangement recently made between the United Alkali Company, on the one part, and a private firm of alkali-manufacturers on the other, has considerably strengthened the market. The last-named concern are large manufacturers of bleaching-powder, and lately have been the only competitors of the U. A. Co. in this article. Not only bleaching-powder, but all other products of the firm referred to will in future be sold through the medium of the U. A. Co. In the drug-market there are few changes of importance. Orris-root has been selling very briskly, and the price is advancing. On the other hand, new Ergot of rye is much cheaper, and new Cantharides are also tending lower. In Acacia gum, Aden and Ghatti have realised better prices. Oil of cassia is again somewhat firmer, while Star anise remains unchanged; the Italian oils have an advancing tendency, but no prices are yet given for the new Oil of lemon, the manufacture of which will begin in October or November. Chamomiles are very firm. Gum kino is almost unobtainable. Cumin-seed, Ipecacuanha, and Tolu maintain their positions. Menthol is slightly higher. Camphor shows a fresh advance. Cubebs and Cascara sagrada, on the other hand, are tending lower. For Lime-juice easier prices have been accepted lately. In the spice-market there have been few changes, the principal matter of interest in this department being the further decline in Zanzibar cloves, which have now almost touched the lowest point on record. Coshin ginger is firm, and good Jamaica very scarce and dear. Nutmegs and Mace keep quiet. There is rather more demand for black and white Pepper, but Pimento is dull of sale. The Cinnamon market has quieted down considerably after the recent excitement. In Drysalteries, oils, &c., the principal feature of interest is the continued advance in Shellac. Chinese galls are also rather

firmer, but although privately fair prices have been paid for Turmeric, the Chinese variety of that article was lower at auction. Gum olibanum is very flat. Indiarubber firm at 3s. 1½d. per lb. for fine Para. The Quicksilver market keeps quiet. Tea has been selling at somewhat better prices. In oils, Linseed closes firmer at 20s. 6d., Rape oil steady at 20s. 6d. to 20s. 9d., and Cotton-seed oil has advanced to 15s. for crude, and 17s. 3d. to 18s. for refined. Coconut, palm, and olive oils show no change. Turpentine is steady and Petroleum very quiet. The Bank-rate is still 2 per cent. and Bar silver remains unchanged at 30½d. per oz.

WE recently noticed on the show-table of a firm of Mincing Lane drug-brokers specimens of two kinds of bark imported via New York, but supposed to have been collected on one of the West India islands, probably Jamaica, and shipped to London for sale on account of their supposed medicinal value. The lots have not been offered at auction nor are they likely to be shown there. The absence of leaves, flowers, or other parts of the plant except bark in the specimens renders it impossible to identify them closely. One of two, a coarse, thick, red bark, has much the appearance of a young condition of mangrove-bark; it is not so thick nor yet so solid as the mangrove-bark of commerce, the individual fibres are not quite so rigid, but they are more numerous. The absence of any astringency, however, excludes it from being mangrove, but it may be that of some allied tree. The second specimen, a light-coloured bark, is apparently that of a species of Croton, very near copalchi bark (*Croton niveus*, Jacq). It has a greyish suberous outside layer, but when this is removed it does not exhibit the minute ribs or grooves which appear in true copalchi bark. It very much resembles the bark of *Croton cascarilla*, Benn.

EXPORTERS of drugs to Japan are in the habit of complaining that the authorities in that country often arbitrarily analyse imported chemicals, and, if found below the exceedingly stringent requirements of the Japanese Pharmacopoeia, refuse their admission into the country. It appears, however, that the law of Japan does not provide for the compulsory analysis of drugs, but that the wholesale druggists usually obtain the guarantee of the Hygienic Laboratories established by Government, or of those started by private enterprise, such as the Osaka Drug Examination Company (known in Japanese as the Yakuhin-shiken-kaisha), for their chemicals and drugs, simply as a satisfaction to themselves and a means of securing the confidence of buyers. As regards the report that certain proprietary medicines have been submitted to analysis and rejected, it is said that the regulations regarding proprietary medicines simply require that no poison shall be contained in them. Even very small quantities of dangerous medicines and drugs are prohibited if the authorities think that such quantities may be the source of danger if taken imprudently. Such medicines as Scott's emulsion of cod-liver oil with hypophosphites, Ayer's hair-restorer, or Bradreth's plasters are sold with Government stamps upon them. The stamp-duty of such medicines is now 1 rin, or the one-thousandth part of a silver dollar, for those costing 2 sen (1 sen being the one-hundredth part of a dollar) per package; 3 rin for those under 3 sen; 5 rin for those under 5 sen; 1 sen for those under 10 sen; and 5 rin for every 5 sen above 10 sen.

IT is well known that the objectionable odour of iodoform arises from impurities generated in the process of manufacture, and eliminable only by a very expensive treatment, which, while producing a pure article, would make it too costly for commercial use. Such absolutely pure odourless iodoform has hitherto only been made in small quantities, never on a wholesale scale. Attempts to cover the odour of commercial iodoform by means of camarin, otto of rose, or mixing with bituminous substances have also proved ineffectual. Now, however, a German firm announces the discovery of a process by Dr. A. Eichengrün, whereby an absolutely odourless product, containing 75 per cent. of iodoform, is obtained. It occurs as a white powder, turning yellow by exposure to light, and is easily decomposed by alkalis, &c.—in fact, contact with the tissues ensures the

breaking-up of the product, and thereby the absorptive influence of iodoform is exhibited. It is to be called iodoformin. It is claimed for iodoformin that it causes no irritation whatever, and acts as a powerful exsiccant, in the same way as dermatol, probably on account of its exceedingly fine powder-form.

AN American contemporary has been inquiring into the position of the market in cuttle bone, an article which is generally considered as a drug, although the creatures most addicted to its use are jewellers and canary-birds, druggists employing it only in the preparation of tooth-powder. Our contemporary finds that the average annual quantity imported into the States during the last six years was about 160,000 lbs., and that the value has come down from an average of 12 8c. per lb. in 1890-91 to 5 7c. (the lowest on record) last year.

A DUTCH Indian newspaper is responsible for the statement that a parcel of quinine manufactured in Java by a Dutch planter has been sold on the Batavia market. It is said to have realised 30 florins per kilo, and the quality is reported to have been so satisfactory that the manufacturer has received several more orders. On the other hand a large firm in the island who have been trying to get up a company for the starting of the quinine-factory have relinquished their efforts, the response to their appeal having "fallen far short of expectation" while Government declined to assist. This, by the way, is not the original firm for the promotion of a Java quinine-factory. The idea has evidently caught on in the Dutch Indies, and several people are still trying to realise it. Meanwhile, complaint is made that much adulterated quinine is imported into Java by Chinese traders in Singapore. The nature of the adulterant is not stated, but the drug is said to be "without the flocculent crystal-form" and can be rubbed into pellets between thumb and forefinger.

ACACIA.—At the monthly auction sales to-day a moderate quantity was offered, and with the exception of *Aden*, and *Kurachee-Amorad*, for which there was strong competition and which realised high prices, all kinds were very dull of sale. The fact is, that most of the business in this article is now done by private treaty, and that the auctions are no longer a criterion to the position of the market. The following prices were paid:—*Aden*: Fair to rather dusty to fine, from 40s. to 45s. 6d.; siftings, 22s. to 24s. 6d.; pickings, 19s. *Soudan* sorts (of which 28 bags were sold): fair, partly hard to pale, 53s; very dusty amber *Egyptian*, 42s. 6d. to 43s.; *Australian*, fair reddish glassy, 25s. 6d.; ordinary dark to red, 20s. to 22s.; fine brown *Mogadore*, 44s.; good *Madras*, 32s.; good to fine *Shatti*, 36s. 6d. to 40s.; fair *Cawnpore*, 28s.; fair to good bright *Kurachee-Amrad*, 29s. to 39s. 6d.; pickings, 25s. 6d. to 27s. per cwt. Privately, *Turkish* sorts are quoted at from 42s. 6d. up to 60s. per cwt., according to quality, but no business of any importance has been done. For *Gehzira* gum, of which a small parcel is offering: 27s. 6d. to 30s. is asked, which is above the present market value. The stock of so-called insoluble *Persian* gum is very heavy, and owners are anxious to effect sales, but there is little demand. Pickers gum is held for from 15s. to 20s.; sorts, 11s. to 13s. per cwt. The exports of acacia gum from Jeddah in 1894 amounted to 3,200 cwt. The whole of this appears to have been shipped to England.

ACID (CITRIC).—Keeps steady at from 1s. 1½d. to 1s. 1¾d. per lb. Concentrated lemon-juice, 14l. per pipe, f.o.b.

ACID (OXALIC).—Firm, at the unchanged price of 3½d. per lb.

ACID (TARTARIC).—The English manufacturers have again raised their prices. *Larres'* make has sold at 12½d., *Kemball's*, it is said, at 12½d. per lb. *Foreign* is quoted at 1s. per lb.

ALOES.—Some parcels of *Curaçao* aloes, which arrived in the States recently and were sold, have been rejected by the buyers on account of inferior quality and bad condition of packages. After the goods were unloaded and placed on the dock it was said to be almost impossible to handle them, several parcels having melted and run together in such a

manner that the different lots could not be properly separated.

AMMONIA SALTS.—*Sal ammoniac* unaltered at 39s. for best, and 37s. for second quality crystals. *Sulphate of ammonia* is again lower, *Beckton* brand being offered at 9l. 1s. 3d., London makes 9l. 2s. 6d. Leith sold to-day at the extremely low price of 9l. *Carbonate* unchanged at 3½d. per lb., usual terms.

ARSENIC.—Steady, at 15l. 5s. per ton for best white powder, landed terms.

BALSAM COPAIBA.—A quiet market. Good *Maranham* balsam is held for 1s. 7d. per lb., and sales have lately been made at that figure. The quotation for *Pará* is from 1s. 5d. to 1s. 6d. per lb.; for *Bahia*, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d. per lb.

BALSAM PERU.—Still rather firmly held; 8s. 9d. per lb. is nominally asked, but probably 8s. 6d. would buy good quality of direct import.

BALSAM TOLU remains scarce, and importers are quoting 1s. 8d. per lb., c.i.f. terms, for fine quality. Fair quality (bought in at the last drug-sales) has realised 1s. 6d. per lb.

BLEACHING-POWDER.—Firm, at 7l. 15s. per ton on the spot in London, and at 7l., f.o.b., Liverpool or Tyne.

BORAX remains fairly steady at 19s. 6d. for crystals and 20s. 6d. for powder from outside manufacturers.

CAFFEINE.—The manufacturers are very busy executing orders, and for September delivery 22s. per lb. is the quotation, although it might perhaps be possible to buy a fraction below that price. For October-November delivery the makers would accept 20s., and the price for December delivery has recently been reduced to 18s. per lb. Most people interested in the article seem inclined to think that it will not fall below that figure.

CAMPHOR (CRUDE).—A few days ago a small sale of 100 piculs *Formosa* and 100 piculs *Japan* camphor in second hand for June-August shipment was reported at 195s., c.i.f. terms, which shows a fresh advance from last week. The syndicate-holders, however, have refused 207s. 6d., c.i.f. for *Japan* camphor, and it is said that there are no sellers now below 210s., c.i.f. terms. The market appears to be altogether in a very firm position.

CAMPHOR (REFINED).—Last Saturday the English refiners agreed to raise their prices for refined camphor 4d. per lb. all round. The present quotations for 10-cwt. lots are as follows:—Bells and flowers, 2s. 3½d. per lb.; tablets of 4, 8 and 16 oz., 2s. 4½d. per lb.; ditto, 1 or 2 oz., 2s. 6d. per lb.; ½-cz. tablets, 2s. 6½d.; ¼ to ½ oz. tablets, 2s. 7d. per lb. Smaller wholesale quotations are charged ½d. per lb. extra. One of the largest German refiners had already raised his quotations a few days previously to 2s. 0½d. per lb. for 10-cwt. lots of bells, and from 2s. 0½d. to 2s. 3½d. for tablets, according to size, and second-hand holders quote the same price for bells. These prices are for immediate delivery, though it is very doubtful whether they would be accepted to-day. For delivery till the end of the year German bells are quoted at 2s. 2½d. per lb. It is said that the German refiners have practically suspended manufacturing, as the cost of raw camphor is too high at present.

CANTHARIDES.—The crop in Russia and Hungary has been a very good one this year, and prices are tending lower. A parcel of old *Russian* flies was offering here at 2s. per lb., but that figure cannot be obtained.

CASCARA SAGRADA.—Good quality, on the spot, may be had at the low price of 17s., and new crop, for shipment by sailing vessel from San Francisco, offers at as low a price as 14s. 6d. per cwt., c.i.f. Market flat, and tending easier.

CASSIA LIGNEA.—Steady, with sales at 30s. 6d. per cwt., cash terms, for fair quality.

CHAMOMILES.—A considerable portion of the new crop of *Belgian* flowers has now been sold and prices are inclined to advance, best flowers of the current crop being quoted at 35s. per cwt.

CINCHONA.—The following figures are given concerning the movement of cinchona-bark on the Amsterdam market. The Amsterdam stock on August 31 consisted of 16,080 bales, of which 1,902 were produced on the Government plantations, the remainder on private plantations. The

imports in the course of the month of August amounted to 4,640 bales, and the sales to 6,076 bales.

COPPER (SULPHATE).—Very firmly held at the recent increase in price. The quotation for good brands in Liverpool is 17l per ton, f.o.b., while fair quality in London may be had at 16l.

CREAM OF TARTAR has been excited all through the week, good white French crystals being quoted at 90s. per cwt., which is an advance of about 7s. for the week. For powder, 92s. 6d. has been paid.

CUBEBS.—Good genuine berries from Singapore are nominally held for 32s. 6d. per cwt., but there is practically no demand, as everybody expects that prices will still go lower.

CUMIN-SEED.—Good new crop *Maltese* seed sold this week at 36s. per cwt.

ERGOT-OF-RYE.—Good *Spanish* ergot, of new crop, is offering at the very low prices of 10d. down to 9d. per lb., c.i.f. terms, for prompt shipment. New *Russian* is also offering at lower rates: it is quite possible to buy at 6d. per lb., c.i.f., and we hear of quotations even below that. To all appearance the article will remain cheap for some time to come.

GALLS.—*Chinese* galls keep very firm. Business was done on the spot recently at 57s. 6d. to 58s. per cwt. At auction 200 cases were bought in at from 57s. 6d. to 60s. per cwt. For arrival there were buyers at 50s., c.i.f., a few days ago.

GUM KINO.—The residue of the small parcel of fine, genuine *East Indian* kino, which was recently on the market, has now been sold at 15s. per lb.; but the woody mixed lot, to which we referred in our last issue, is still to be had. There is also a supply of an almost black-looking kino, of very slight astringent taste, for which 3s. 6d. per lb. is required.

GUM MASTICH.—Fine pale drop has been sold at the comparatively low price of 1s. 10d. per lb. lately. For yellow drop 1s. 3d. is asked; but there are no buyers.

INDIGO.—The next public sales of *East Indian* indigo will be held on October 14. Up to the present 4,950 chests have been declared for auction, including 1,495 chests Bengal, 2,505 Kurpah, and 620 Madras.

INSECT FLOWERS.—The arrival of new flowers in *Trieste* have been rather below the average arrival, but prices show no alteration since our last quotation.

IPECACUANHA.—Those who follow the market most closely seem to think well of the prospects of an advance in this article. The arrivals have lately been small, the stock has been reduced, and the demand keeps up. The importers are very firm in their views, but buyers generally hesitate to pay the present quotations.

JUNIPER BERRIES are tending lower, on account of the large crop gathered in Italy, and a reduction in price is shortly expected.

LIME JUICE.—Decidedly lower. The season is now at an end, and there have been heavy arrivals recently. The nominal quotation for fair is from 1s. to 1s. 1d. per gallon; but possibly even the 1s. price might be shaded.

MENTHOL.—The position has undergone a change since last week, chiefly on account of persistent reports that there is no stock left in Japan, and that the new crop will be unusually late. 13s. per lb. is generally asked in London, but we are inclined to think that it will be possible to buy at 12s. 6d. for shipment. Quotations run from 12s. 6d. to 12s. 9d. per lb., c.i.f. terms.

MORPHIA.—Manufacturers now ask 4s. per oz. for powder, in fair wholesale quantities, and one of them has nominally raised his quotation to 4s. 3d. per oz. It is doubtful whether even in second-hand it would not be possible to buy at the lowest quotation given by us last week. Crystals are quoted, as usual, 2d. above the powder price.

OILS (ESSENTIAL).—The market for all kinds of *Italian* essential oils remains exceedingly firm, with a higher tendency. Considerable sales of *Lemons* of the coming crop have already been made to speculators by owners of gardens on a much higher basis than that prevailing last year, and

this is affecting the price of the oil. On the other hand, there has not been an unusually great demand on the part of the foreign consumers. *Oil of lemon* is now quoted at from 3s. to 4s., f.o.b.; *orange* from 4s. 6d. to 4s. 9d.; and *bergamot* from 9s. to 10s. per lb. It is as yet too early to say anything definite in regard to the coming crop, but it is believed that the prospects, so far as *Orange* and *Bergamot* oils are concerned, have become less favourable lately. The Russian crop of *Anise* has been a satisfactory one, and somewhat lower prices are expected for the oil. *Geranium* oil, *Reunion* variety, is very scarce, and higher prices prevail. The new crop will shortly be due, but is likely to realise high rates. American *Oil of peppermint*, H.G.H., slightly steadier at 10s. per lb. on the spot. A newly-arrived parcel of brown *Camphor* oil has been sold at 30s. per cwt. *Wayne County* oil of *peppermint* is quoted at 7s. 6d. per lb., c.i.f., for Sept.-Oct. shipment new crop. *Oil of cassia* has again somewhat improved upon its position of last week, though we have not heard of much trade in this article. The nearest price for 70 to 75 per cent. oil is 7s. 3d. per lb. *Oil of star-anise* is also unchanged at 7s. 3d. per lb. to 7s. 6d. per lb. on the spot. For shipment quotations remain steady. A parcel of *Oil of lignaloes* has recently been imported from Mexico, but it is very difficult to get buyers for it, especially as for a long time there has been a decided over-production in this article.

OPIUM.—The position of the market remains much the same as when we reported upon it last week. Good to fine *Soft shipping* kinds are held at from 10s. 6d. to 12s.; *Smyrna* according to quality, from 7s. 9d. to 8s. 9d.; *Druggists' seconds*, from 7s. to 7s. 9d.; and *Persian* opium from 11s. for ordinary up to 13s. for fine, although 12s. 9d. is as yet the highest price paid for this variety.

ORRIS.—Notwithstanding reports from Italy announcing that the output of new-crop *Florentine* root is rather larger than had been anticipated, there has been a decided reaction towards higher rates in our market during the last few days. Large sales of new *Florentine* orris have been made at from 72s. 6d. up to 75s. 6d. per cwt., c.i.f. terms, for good to fine picked; and it is even reported that 76s., c.i.f., has been paid. Selected *Verona* root, of which the crop is available rather later than that of *Florentine*, offers at 58s. per cwt., c.i.f. terms.

OTTO OF ROSE.—A report from Bulgaria states that the prices of otto of rose in Bulgaria are advancing daily. Several firms are hurrying up their purchases with the result that the equivalent of 1,325f. per kilo. has already been paid at Kezanlik. Two big firms especially are concerned in the movement—one of them keeps up the prices in order to get rid of last year's stock at a profit, the other because it wants to spoil the business of certain rivals who have made uncovered sales at low prices in anticipation of a good crop and low quotations. The London quotations, however, show no change at all.

PILOCARPINE remains very scarce; 9s. 6d. per gramme is nominally asked for *Nitrate* and *Hydrochlorate*, but perhaps it might be had at a slightly lower figure in second-hand.

QUICKSILVER.—Quiet. The importers' price still remains 7l. 5s. per bottle; second-hand holders require 7l. 3s. to 7l. 3s. 6d. The exports of quicksilver from Spain during the seven months ending July 31 have been:—

	1893	1894	1895
Kilos.	1,522,971	832,067	1,389,466
Value, pesetas.	8,523,637	4,639,574	7,221,009

QUILLAIA.—The Liverpool market is quiet. Small sales have lately been made at 12l. per ton.

QUININE has been very neglected through the week, and no business of any importance can be reported. The nominal quotation for second-hand German, in bulk, remains 13½d. per oz., at which there are sellers, but there are no buyers over 1s. 1½d. per cz.

SAFFRON.—Somewhat firmer. One or two of the firms who have cut the prices in the course of the past two or three months have again raised them slightly, best *Valencia* being now quoted at from 22s. to 23s. per lb. The exports of saffron

from Spain during the seven months ending July 31 have been:—

	1893	1894	1895
Kilos.	17,830	17,613	20,761
Value, pesetas	1,513,850	1,487,103	1,636,655

SCAMMONY-ROOT remains very scarce and is held for 40s. per cwt. *Scammonium* is also in very small supply as regards fine qualities, firsts being held at 27s. 6d. to 30s.; seconds, nominally at 15s. to 20s. *Scammony resin* is quoted by the manufacturers at 9s. per lb., but there have recently been sellers in second-hand at 8s. 6d. It is questionable, however, whether any more could be had at the last-named figure.

SENEGAL.—The recent advance in this drug has not been maintained, good quality being offered again at 1s. 3d. per lb. on the spot, or 1s. 1d. c.i.f. terms.

SENNA.—Twenty-two thousand pounds of senna-leaves were exported from Jeddah, on the Red Sea, in 1894.

SHELLAC.—The advance in shellac which we announced in our last issue has made further considerable progress during the week. A considerable business has been transacted almost every day, and on the spot *Orange T.N.* has been sold at 119s. to 120s. The business for delivery has been moderate, but 119s. has been paid for September. For shipment sales have taken place from November-January steamer at 110s. 6d., rising to 112s. 6d., c.i.f. terms. At auction on Tuesday 807 cases were offered, of which 355 sold at an advance of from 1s. to 2s. for *Orange lac* as compared with the previous weeks auction, while *Garnet* and *Button* were slightly lower. Livery seconds, from 110s. to 111s.; and fair to good ditto, from 116s. to 118s. per cwt. A parcel of *Button lac* sold, partly without reserve, at 122s. for pale cakey firsts, and from 112s. to 113s. for circle firsts very hard and blocky. Blocky ruby *Garnet* G.D. over S realised from 93s. to 94s. Curly G, partly blocky, was bought in at 100s. per cwt. The market closes very firm.

SILVER (NITRATE).—Steadier, at 1s. 8d. per oz.

SODA SALTS.—On the spot 70 per cent. *Caustic* is quoted at 7l. 15s. per ton; *Crystals* firm at 42s. 6d., ex wharf or ship; *Nitrate* dull at 8s. 3d. per cwt. for refined.

SOY.—Chinese soy dull of sale, at from 12d. to 12½d. per gallon.

SPICES.—*Zanzibar* cloves have been slow of sale, with some business at easier prices, 2½d. having been accepted for August-October and October-December delivery. The market closes with further sellers at 2½d. per lb. At auction 102 bales were offered, but all bought in. Eighteen cases of *Penang* cloves sold at from 7d. for good up to 10d. for fine picked. *Mace* remains very quiet, with small sales of fair pale *Penang* at 1s. 9d. per lb. Ordinary to good *West Indian* sold at auction at from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 7d. per lb. *Nutmegs* show no alteration. *Cochin Ginger*: 300 bags sold at auction at 21s. 6d. for common shrivelled, and from 34s. to 35s. for fair brown rough. *Pimento* dull of sale, at from 15s. 8d. for common np to 23s. 4d. for fair clean *Jamaica*. *White* and *Black pepper* are both quiet, and very little business on the spot. Fair black *Singapore* has sold at 2½d.; fair bold white ditto at 5½d.; and fair white *Penang* at 2½d. to 3½d. per lb. Both black and white pepper close firmly, with a good business. Fine *Jamaica ginger* is very scarce. The bulk of the new crop has arrived, and there is but little left in first-hand. Medium to good medium quality is held at from 65s. to 85s. per cwt. For picked root fancy prices are quoted.

SPEARMACETI.—A fair demand, at 1s. 4d. per lb. for refined *American*.

SPONGES.—Reports from Florida indicate continued scarcity and extreme prices for sponges, and advices from Nassau (Bahamas) and Cuba are to the effect that scarcity and high prices will prevail there also for prime qualities. Owing to these reports influences are brought to bear on the New York market to insure an advance in price.

SUGAR OF MILK.—Getting a little scarcer; best white powder is quoted at 57s. 6d. per cwt., but some rather inferior quality may be had still at as low a price as 50s.

TEA.—The public sales of both Indian and Ceylon have been heavy this week—very heavy in the case of Indian—but supplies have been taken very readily at firm to rather higher rates. Buyers appear to have realised that Assam Pekoe Sonchongs, such as have been selling lately from 6d. to 7d., and Pekoes from 7d. to 8d., are worth securing, and competition has been brisk, in spite of the enormous number of breaks to value. On Tuesday common Ceylon showed an advance in most cases of ¼d. per lb., and good-quality Pekoes and broken Pekoes, from 11d. upwards, were in strong demand and much dearer. Congous are very slow of sale, and a shade easier, common new Moning selling as low as 4½d.

TONGA BEANS.—Rather slow of sale, with some little business in good frosted *Pará*, at 2s. 3d. per lb.

TURMERIC.—Rather slow of sale at auction, 200 bags *Chinese* sold, without reserve, at lower prices—viz., from 6s. 9d. to 7s. 6d. for ordinary dark wormy mixed finger. Good bright *Madras* finger was bought in at 10s. 6d.; *Cochin* finger, 9s. to 10s.; and fair split *Cochin* bulb at 8s. per cwt.

VANILLA in small supply; good qualities, however, are firmly held, and sold at an advance of about 1s. last week.

WAX (BEES') unaltered, but on the whole tending easier. *Madras* sold last Thursday at 6l. 7s. 6d. to 6l. 10s. for fair; 5 packages damaged and greasy *East Indian* realised from 80s. to 82s. 6d.; for *Zanzibar*, for fair to good bright, 5l. 15s. to 6l. 5s. was paid; and *Jamaican* sold fairly well at from 7l. 10s. to 7l. 15s. per cent.

WAX (JAPAN).—Very quiet, with small sales at 26s. to 23s. 6d. per cwt. for good pale squares.

The Liverpool Drug market.

Our Liverpool correspondent, writing on September 11, says that *Gums* are now reduced to a very narrow compass, and all really choice parcels have been cleared off the market—values of the lots offering range from 50s. to 55s. per cwt. *Cream of tartar* has continued the upward movement of the past few weeks, and now 85s. is asked for prime first white. *Honeys* are not quotably changed in value, but the partial failure of the *Irish* crop is causing holders to be very firm in their views, especially for the finer grades. The stock of *Chilian anise* is perceptibly reduced, none being now held in first hands, but so far the quotation of 22s. 6d. per cwt. is unchanged. *Canary-seed* is momentarily quiet on the spot, and only a limited business is passing at about 35s. per quarter. More disposition is shown to buy for arrival, but the views of holders check business. *Castor oil* fully maintains the recent advances, and there is a distinct tendency toward better prices. Good seconds *Calcutta* is still quoted at 2½d., and steady business is being done at this figure. Ten tons *Madras* good seconds sold from the quay at 2d. and now 2½d. is demanded ex store. *Beeswax* is unchanged at late values. *Kola-nuts* are moving slowly at 5d. to 8d. per lb., according to quality.

The Liverpool Oil and Chemical Market.

The United Alkali Company and Brunner, Mond & Co., having come to an arrangement with Bowman, Thompson & Co., of Northwich, for a rearrangement of prices, so as to avoid the keen competition that has been going on for some time, a fillip has been given to some of the heavy alkalis, and prices have been advanced. Ammonia alkali is now quoted at 3l. 10s. for prompt, with 4l. quoted over next year. *Acids* remain quiet, except tartaric, which is dearer. *Soda*: *Crystals* have advanced to 2l. 10s. per ton, and a good sale experienced; *bicarbonate*, 6l. 15s. per ton, and more inquired for; *nitrate* selling better at the late advance; *caustic soda*, no change yet; *hyposulphite*, no change. *Ammonia*: *Sulphate* in fair demand at 9l. 10s. per ton. *Potash*: *Prussiate* firmer in demand at 8½d. lb.; *chlorate* dull at 4½d.; *bichromate*, no change. *Copperas* very firm at 33s. *Bleaching-powder* steady at 6l. 15s. f.o.r. *Palm oil*: The market is very dull, prices being a little easier, 19l. 10s. for Accra, 20l. 5s. for Lagos. *Olive oil*: The holders are offering very sparingly, and prices are very firm at late rates. *Linseed oil* is quiet at 22s. *Cotton-seed oil*, steady at 17s. 9d.

ANOTHER INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS.—The sixth international Congress of Veterinary Medicine is to be held in Berlin from September 16 to 21.



Memoranda for Correspondents.

In letters for publication correspondents are requested to express their views as concisely as possible.

Correspondents should write on one side of the paper only, and devote a separate piece of paper to each subject of inquiry.

The name and address of the writer should accompany all communications with, if desired, a distinctive nom-de-plume.

Naval Hospital Dispenserships.

SIR,—Your article on naval dispenserships is, in the main very exact, but allow me to say it is misleading with regard to superannuation. An "uninitiated" would think, as I did, that after ten years' service one would be able to resign his appointment, and be entitled to a pension of ten-sixtieths of his pay, as per your article and the Admiralty prospectus; but such is not the case unless the applicant is medically unfit for further service.

Superannuation does not actually take place until a dispenser is 60 years of age, and, in my opinion, almost too old to enjoy it.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

C. E. KENT,

Gosport, September 9. (Late seven years R.N. dispenser.)

[We have clearly stated that pensions are given when "recommended by the medical committee or the head of the department." It is right, however, that the point should be emphasised.—ED.]

The Education of Apprentices.

SIR,—Mr. Wilson's able letter on apprenticeship must interest everyone in the trade. I notice he goes with a great many more in wishing to include algebra and Euclid in the Preliminary, thinking, no doubt, that a boy who has done simple or quadratic equation problems would have a better chance of getting through his examinations than one who has had a "board-school education," with three months' Latin tuition thrown in afterwards to "master" the first book of Cæsar. Well, anyone at first sight would think the former would be likely to get through the Minor and Major more readily than the latter, but my experience proves the contrary. I went to a good grammar school at 9 years, and made a record by getting through the Junior Cambridge at 11½ years, taking Latin, algebra, and Euclid. At 13½ I got through the Senior Cambridge Local, taking in trigonometry, mechanics, and French in addition to other subjects. Having stayed at school a year longer, I was apprenticed to a chemist who did a fair dispensing and light retail in Manchester, and who took sufficient interest to teach me what little chemistry he knew. I went up three times for the Minor, just getting through before I was 22. I didn't grumble much at that because I had never been to a school of pharmacy for it, and I failed on the aggregate both times. Then I went to a school for six months for the Major, and went in, I was told, well up. I failed through a misunderstanding, so the examiner put it. I called it much worse on his part, so I am still but a chemist and druggist.

Three intimate friends of mine, who had a similar liberal (for a chemist's apprentice) education, were far more unfortunate, inasmuch as two of them were at a good school for eighteen months—one got his Minor in five tries, the other in six. The third has had twelve months at a school, and has been up three times and been unsuccessful.

I know many cases of men who have had the board-school-and-Latin education who, having served four years to a chemist whose trade consists of 1d. pills and packets wholesale to village shops, have, after attending a school for three or four months, got through the Minor at the first attempt. I have an apprentice now who will say "taken" whenever he should say "took," and *vice versa*; but as he is not easily abashed I have great hopes of his distinguishing

himself in the examinations, and as he has been taught chemistry at school he may rise to be a bottle holder or washer to a professor of chemistry at one of the hospitals, get the F.C.S. given him, and finally take the title of "Dr." on the strength of having obtained the L.S.A.

Yours, &c,

LYMPH. (140/28.)

Tr. Quinine Ammon

SIR,—I note your reply to "Canary" (128/52). I was troubled in the same way, but attributed the colour to action of light, as I found when bottled in pale green glass no coloration occurred. Of course it might also have been due to the action of the ammonium in a white glass.

I fancy light has most to do with it, though, as I find more than one article keep its colour indefinitely under pale green glass, but change at once under white, notably pulv. rhei co.

Yours truly,

J. S. (138/31.)

Counter-practice.

SIR,—I am finding the prescriptions sent to you for competition, with hints, &c., so invaluable to me that I am arranging them in a "prescribing-book," in alphabetical order, for my own benefit and those about me, on the plea that if I do anything at all in that line I may just as well do it correctly with safe remedies.

I want to have a grumble, though, and I know you will allow it. I had been hopefully looking forward to the list of winners, with their prescriptions (by numbers), so as to see which were the approved ones, and benefit by it; but your list of winners only leaves me to my own fallible judgment, which I regret, and possibly others with me. Apart from this, I think, in this series, you have made the greatest hit of all your valuable contributions in these days of "profitable extras" hunting, and deserve our heartiest thanks, as we are not all Limehouse adventurers, though we are unwilling to yield all to the doctor.

Yours truly,

September 3.

MAG. CIT. (136/10.)

[Our correspondent appears to have forgotten that the medical referee arranged the prescriptions under the various headings in what he considered was their order of merit—the best prescriptions were placed first. It is from these our selection of prize winners has chiefly been made.—ED.]

Randall's.

We have received a number of appreciative letters from old assistants of Messrs. Randall & Son in reference to the article published in our issue of August 31, but we have only room for the following from an old subscriber (139/43), who says:—"I was second assistant there in 1848, and cherish my recollections of those days. The portrait is good. The shop-front was then of ordinary window-glass, with comparatively small panes, replaced some years afterwards by plate glass as now. An old pensioner, Jimmy Hill, sat upstairs in the room described all day making lozenges. The black-currant lozenges were then cut in squares. Allnut's fruit-lozenges were a copy. One reason why the taking of apprentices came to be relinquished was this. The apprenticeship to an apothecary (the only door to the medical profession) was abolished. Previously, as Mr. Edward Mayor Randall was an apothecary (L.A.C.), apprenticeship to him had thus special value. Some of the apprentices did follow the medical profession. I remember the anodyne opodeldoc very well. The Randalls—father and son—were beloved by a wide circle. In my time the public dispensary was on the premises, and nearly all the medical men of the town and neighbourhood were on excellent terms with us. One old gentleman, Dr. Steane, would walk into the counting-house and address Mr. Edward Mayor Randall as 'most noble sir'!"

DISPENSING NOTES.

The Guaiacum Mixture.

The mixture should be dispensed in one bottle, unless ordered otherwise. It can be dispensed in the ordinary way

with addition of mucilage, or a little glycerine added instead of mucilage will prevent the precipitate sticking firmly to the bottom of bottle.

MAZZAVOOTINTO. (134/17)

A Permanganate Gargle.

SIR,—Will you kindly tell me through your paper which would be probably correct? I had a prescription brought—

Liq. pot. permang.	..	..	..	..	5iss.
Acid, hydroc. dil.	..	..	..	..	5j.
Aq. ad	..	..	..	..	3viij.
Ft. garg.					

I used ac. mur. dil. for second item. The patient then went to a popular seaside town and had a repeat. The chemist there used ac. pruss. dil. as I suppose from the smell of the contents of bottle brought back for my inspection. The first bottle he made was "ropy," and was returned, and a fresh bottle made up which has a blackish precipitate.

Yours,

September 9.

HEWITT. (140/12.)

[The seaside chemist was wrong. The object of the hydrochloric acid is to prevent decomposition of the solution in the bottle, and also to prevent the formation of a brown stain on the fauces.]

LEGAL QUERIES.

Immediate information on pharmaco-legal matters is available in "Pharmacy and Poison Laws of the United Kingdom," Alpe's "Handy-book of Medicine-stamp Duty," and THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY.

133/22. *Leasehold*.—As you have no clause in your lease providing for sub-letting, there is no way in which you can compel your landlord to accept the rent of the premises from anybody but yourself.

134/39. *H. B. C.*—When a man buys a pig in a poke he has no redress if the pig happen not to be exactly what he imagined it. You are in that position as regards the business. Presumably the books were open to inspection before you purchased, but you did not examine them until you had paid the money; now you find that the late owner's "about" means 17s. less a week than the round figure. There is nothing for redress in that. It was your duty to find out what "about" meant, and we expect that a county court judge would tell you that he does not sit on the bench to repair such omissions.

135/35. *Enquirer*.—What do we mean by insufficiency of capital? When an account or bill becomes due and you cannot meet it, you are in that predicament. It is impossible to lay down a rule as to capital for a—e.g., 20l.-a-week business or anything else, as that entirely depends upon the nature of the business, the man who owns it, &c. You should get "How do I Stand" from Messrs. Mawson, Swan & Weddell, Newcastle, and Mr. Platt's ls. book on "Business."

136/41. *Leo*.—If you can prove that your neighbour makes noises which are a public nuisance you may get an injunction against him, but it seems from your description that he does no more than is required in his business—an ancient and honourable one. Cannot you make some friendly overtures?

133/12. *W. I.*—It is illegal for an unqualified person to keep open shop for the sale of poisons or to be the known partner of a person who does so; nor may an unqualified person sell poisons.

104/4. *Phenaectin* asks:—"How many years' purchase would be the value of a leasehold house and shop which has twenty years' lease to run, the rent being 20l. a year, the premises being sold subject to a ground-rent of 5l. a year?"

[In our correspondent's town we should say that five to seven years' purchase would be ample; but in Cheapside, London, or any other first-class business centre, the value might run as high as twenty years' purchase.]

137/36. *R. J. K.* writes to us in indignation and trouble to ask how long the following label is to remain in use:—

PHARMACY ACT.—A new interpretation of this Act has rendered it necessary that all preparations, containing even minute quantities of Scheduled Poisons, must be labelled *Poison*; this preparation is therefore labelled "POISON," but its composition is in no way altered, and the doses mentioned on the label are perfectly safe.

He objects to the words "a new interpretation," &c., and it seems, too, that the whole tone of the thing is unnecessarily profuse. "POISON in an overdose" will satisfy the law, and is necessary even in pennyworths of paregoric and syrup of squill.

13/38. *Inquirer* asks if the words "Fruit-salt" are a registered trade-mark, or can Brown, Jones, or Robinson, sell a fruit-salt under that title so long as the public cannot be deceived as to the maker of such fruit-salt? ["Fruit-salt" alone is not a registered trade-mark, but it may be quite possible for Mr. J. C. Eno to prove in common law that he has made the expression his trade-mark, and that the use of it by others is a deception; and in face of the House of Lords judgment (*C. & D.*, xxxvi, page 862), we consider that the use of the words by Brown, Jones, or Robinson, as a description of an effervescing saline would be a use "which is calculated to deceive."]

141/72. *Frigid*.—Preparations containing cocaine must be labelled "Poison," and signed for, as it is "a poisonous vegetable alkaloid."

141/71. *Redcliffe*.—Tender and perspiring feet are not considered an "ailment," so that the label for your foot-powder will not render the preparation liable to medicine-stamp duty.

141/70. *Beta*.—You have not quoted correctly. Any medicated wines to be sold without a wine-licence (other than quinine wine) should be submitted to the Board of Inland Revenue for approval, the Board insisting in the case of coca wine that it should be distinctly medicinal in taste and action, as stated in the paragraph which you quote. We recommend every retailer to get this permission through the local supervisor. The wine referred to has been accepted, as medicinal.

MISCELLANEOUS INQUIRIES.

Back numbers containing formulae, educational or other specific information can be obtained from the Publisher.

N.B.—We destroy anonymous letters. We do not answer queries of the kind here dealt with by post. We ask that separate queries shall be written on separate sheets of paper.

130/74. *S. G. W.*—We think the signs have been reversed, and that pot. iod. 5j. and paraff. molle 5ij. is intended.

130/55. *Borderer*.—Hair wash.—Your sample has this composition—

P. iris.	..	..	..	..	..	3ij.
Chlorophyll	..	..	..	..	..	q.s.
Spt. vini rect.	ad	..	..	..	..	0j.

Percolate the orris with the spirit, and add sufficient chlorophyll to tint a nice green.

127/44. *Tontine*.—The cake-colouring powder is a water-soluble azo-orange dye.

131/10. *R. R.*—The ammonia in your recipe for Operating Liver-syrup would soon annihilate the action of the podophyllin, and reduce the activity of the aloes. Try the following:—

Aloes Bbds...	..	..	..	3iss.
Podophyllin ..	..	..	..	gr. viij.
Ext. enonymi sicc...	..	..	..	5ss.
Pulv. boracis ..	..	..	..	5j.
Tr. capsici ..	..	..	..	3ij.
Aq. ..	..	..	..	5j.

Rub all the powders together, and add the tincture and water previously mixed; allow to stand all night, and add the following, previously mixed:—

Ol. carui ..	..	..	..	℥xx.
„ gaultheriæ ..	..	..	..	℥v.
Spt. chloroformi ..	..	..	..	3ij.
Elixir. saccharini ..	..	..	..	3ij.

Then—

Glycerini ..	..	..	..	5ij.
Ext. glycyrrhiz. ..	..	..	..	3ij.
Aq. ad ..	..	..	..	3xij.

Macerate four days, then allow to stand for four days; decant the clear portion, strain the rest through flannel, and add to the clear portion.]

131/46. *J. G.*—The undissolved crystals in the rheumatic mixture are potass. chlorat. The mixture was evidently made with warm water, the crystals depositing on cooling.

133/64. *J. G. J.*—Your Hoose-mixture resembles this—

Ol. terebinth. ..	..	..	..	5ij.
„ olivæ ..	..	..	..	5j.
„ rosmarini ..	..	..	..	℥x.
Sapo. moll. ..	..	..	..	5j.
Aquæ ..	..	..	..	3vj.

M.S.A.

131/19. *Camphor*.—Powder used by Anglers for making paste for bait is flour with the faintest suspicion of oil of aniseed.

132/6. *J. W.*—Ginger-beer.—See *C. & D.*, xlvii., page 111.

131/63. *T. S.*—Formalin will Preserve Cider admirably. It is much used for beer.

137/5. *Analysis*.—Wanklyn's "Water Analysis" (Kegan Paul), 5s.

135/46. *Dos* asks us for a Reliable Application for Mosquitoes.—He has tried "everything"—curtains, nets, fumigating-powders, &c.—and they are all useless in his experience. Now this is one of those things upon which it is foolish to dogmatise either way. Tincture of insect-powder, with or without certain essential oils (eucalyptus, &c.), we know some people swear by absolutely, and, no doubt, in their experience they find them all right; but we have seen these things hopeless failures in other cases. Why is it that an individual here and there is afflicted by the insect-tribe, and a few others seem to be shunned by the buzzing crowd? We suppose it is all on account of something peculiar—some irresistible nectar—about the persons, rather than insect idiosyncrasy. To overcome that is the difficulty, but *Dos* might try the following:—

Insect-powder ..	..	..	..	1 oz.
Rectified spirit ..	..	..	..	6 „

Macerate four days, filter, and add—

Oil of lavender ..	..	..	..	℥x.
„ peppermint ..	..	..	..	℥v.
Eucalyptus oil ..	..	..	..	℥xv.
Carbolic acid ..	..	..	..	5j.

Dissolve.

Directions.—Mix one teaspoonful with a wineglassful of water and sponge the neck, back of the hands, &c., with the lotion. Dry lightly.

135/41. *Hotspur* feels in trouble about Counter-prescribing. He wants some "simple-worded treatise on ailments, with intelligible description of the symptoms which shall help him in deciding as to the nature of the complaint about which advice is asked at the counter, and shall point him asto the best treatment and nursing for it. It should have a clear table of doses for various aged children. *Hotspur* is aware that the *C. & D.* has published directions as to treatment of specified ailments, and indeed he possesses these treatises; but he is so ignorant that he cannot tell nettle-rash from measles, nor could he be positive as to a genuine 'whoop,' so that he wants 'first aid,' really more elementary than *C. & D.* previous efforts."

[The request is somewhat astounding. What *Hotspur* really wants is to get someone to write a book for himself, for we do not suppose there can be many persons in the trade who are prepared to make such a confession of ignorance as he does. But we have a public duty to perform—viz, not to assist *Hotspur* in the dangerous practice which he wishes to cultivate, for it is dangerous as long as he is in such a fog that he cannot understand the articles which we have published under "Drugs and Diseases."]

135/67. *Major in Embryo*.—Ext. Cocæ Liq. Miscibl.—The general method of preparing coca, cascara, and liquid extracts of other drugs which contain resinous or similar ingredients which do not mix with water, is to use a menstruum which will not dissolve them. Mr. John Moss recommends a weak alcoholic menstruum for cascara.

132/37. *A. J. W.*—We have published formulæ for Tobacco Flavours, but since that time the use of such flavours in the United Kingdom has been made illegal. We cannot repeat the formulæ, as that might be taken to mean encouragement to break the law.

130/24. *Dens*—You must be registered as a dental student first of all, therefore you must complete the Preliminary examination. See the information regarding that last week. When that is done, if you wish to have your period of study antedated, so as to include the two years which you have already spent in mechanical dentistry, you must make special application to the General Medical Council. The form required for your employer's declaration you can obtain from the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh. This and all other documents bearing upon your case, should be submitted to the Scotch Registrar, as you reside in Scotland. Provided the Medical Council agree to antedate your registration you will have to go through the usual two years' hospital and school course, the attendance at the hospital being reckoned as two of the four years' mechanical instruction required.

INFORMATION WANTED.

The Editor invites, on behalf of inquiring subscribers, postcard replies to the following:—

24/98. Tippet's self-weighing machine: where obtainable?

136/7. Makers of vitalite or loofah socks.

136/70. Who are the makers of the "Invicta" Guinea Camera?

136/45. What is ferro-sodium recommending in the following:—"For obtaining small iron castings of good and sound quality, even from inferior scrap, the use of ferro-sodium has lately been recommended. From one to two pennyworth added to the ladle just before pouring brings the dross to the top at once."

140/7. Cut-out paper letters for making showcards: where obtainable?

109/95. Liq. peptodyne: who is the maker?

Will the writer of the "Pharmaceutical Major General" (*C. & D.*, page 349) please communicate with us; also "Dupar"?